

**SMILEing all the way to the bank**  
Up Your Alley and Folsom Street Fairs pay  
off to the tune of \$165,000. See Mr. Marcus.  
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**Veterans Day special**  
Protection for the gays  
who service the service.  
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**Velvet revolution**  
Director Todd Haynes  
dabbles in glam rock.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 45 • 5 November 1998

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 27 years

## Lambda United in hypocrisy?

by Cynthia Laird

**T**he Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund will host a private luncheon for donors in San Francisco on Wednesday, November 18, at the downtown law offices of Brobeck, Phleger, and Harrison — the lead attorneys for United Airlines, in the passenger carrier's continuing legal dispute over implementation of the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance.

The law requires companies doing business with the city to offer the same benefits to employees' domestic partners that they offer to spouses. United filed a lawsuit against the city in 1997; in April, U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken upheld the bulk of the city's law but did rule that United does not have to offer medical and pension benefits. The air carrier was required to offer other benefits such as bereavement leave and travel, and is fighting that part of Wilken's ruling in court. A hearing has been set for January.

Jennifer Pizer, openly gay managing attorney at Lambda's western regional office in Los Angeles, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the event is being organized because one of the openly gay partners at Brobeck, George Tuttle, is a Lambda board member. "He's hosting the luncheon, it's for donors only," Pizer said, adding she's also planning on attending the event.

Asked if she'll mention the ongoing legal battle between United and the city during her remarks to the Lambda donors, Pizer said it's "possible."

"It's possible I'll mention the ATA case," Pizer said, referring to the Air Transport Association, which originally filed the lawsuit; United filed suit in its own name earlier this year.

Lambda was one of several organizations that filed an amicus brief on behalf of the city, which is a brief filed with the court in support of the city's case against United Airlines.

### 'They help ... we sue'

Pizer also acknowledged that Lambda staff regularly fly on United when traveling across the country, but insisted there is no ethical conflict because the nonprofit organization does not pay for the travel; United provides it free. Pizer could not explain why the airline offers free travel to Lambda staff, many of whom are openly gay, but refuses to offer travel benefits to domestic partners of its own gay workers.

"We don't pay United. We receive free travel from United. They help us do the work we do to sue them," Pizer said, adding she generally flies Southwest Airlines when traveling. "I'm trying to work in 10 states. There's no airline we could use." She was referring to the fact that no air carriers offer benefits to domestic partners of workers. Pizer also noted that many large companies don't "do what we want," in terms of policies, or benefits that help the lesbian and gay commu-

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## Many happy returns in California elections

Ammiano leads supes; Davis, Boxer big winners

by Wayne Friday

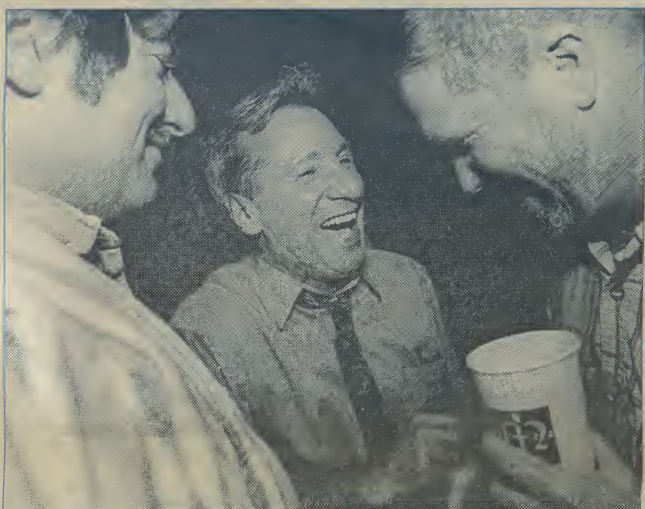
**D**emocrat Gray Davis, the state's current lieutenant governor, broke a 16-year Republican stronghold on the California Statehouse Tuesday, November 3, handily defeating GOP Attorney General Dan Lungren by a near-landslide margin of 20 percentage points. Additionally, Davis's impressive 58 to 38 percent win helped carry much of the Democratic state ticket to victory as well; Cruz Bustamante, a termed-out assemblyman, was elected to replace Davis as the state's new lieutenant governor, marking the first time in more than 100 years that a Latino has held that post, and the first time in decades that the state's two top elected officials are from the same party.

Another big win for California was Democratic U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. Unofficial returns showed Boxer with a 10-point win over GOP state Treasurer Matt Fong. Boxer, thought to be a probable loser only weeks ago, pulled off a stunning political comeback to return to Washington D.C. for a second term.

Locally, San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano was leading the field of candidates for five seats on the board early Wednesday morning, poised to become the governing body's second openly gay board president. Supervisor Gavin Newsom was trailing Ammiano, although nearly 40,000 absentee ballots were yet to be counted at press time. Supervisor Mabel Teng, probably the biggest spender in the supervisorial contest, was lagging behind Ammiano and Newsom, with openly gay Supervisor Mark Leno finishing a strong fourth. The fifth spot was apparently going to incumbent Amos Brown, but this too, was too close to call and after absentee ballots are counted, Victor Marquez, an openly gay attorney, could possibly take that fifth slot.

East Bay state Senator Bill Lockyer, one of the Legislature's top members, won the state attorney general's post, replacing Lungren. Other statewide Democratic winners are: Sacramento businessman Phil Angelides,

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Thrill of victory: Tom Ammiano and supporters exulted over Tuesday's local election results.

## Drizzle doesn't fizzle Halloween

by Timothy Rodrigues

**T**he fact that there was no organized celebration in the Castro for Halloween, and a bit of rain earlier in the evening, did not deter 200,000 people who showed up Saturday for the non-event assembly.

The march against hate and violence, as reported in the *B.A.R.* last week, managed to draw an estimated 1,000 participants to Castro and Market streets, according to San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) estimates;

about 500 people completed the march to the Hall of Justice after a 7 p.m. rally.

"I thought it was overwhelmingly successful; it was a powerful mix of somber, respectful mourning and anger," said Jonathan Katz, chair of the queer studies department at City College who spoke to the assembled crowd at the march.

"For me the most compelling moment was seeing two baby dykes, clearly on their first march," Katz told the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that this was a passing of the queer torch to a new generation of activists.

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The Halloween march against hate and violence started in the Castro.

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS






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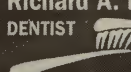
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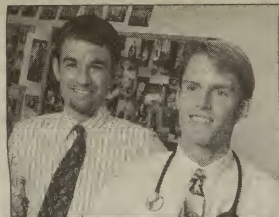
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## Gay community center plans taking shape

by Cynthia Laird

The revised design of the planned Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Project was unveiled Monday, November 2, and while there was a small crowd on hand, those who attended liked the changes that the architects have incorporated after several weeks of community meetings.

Construction for the center is expected to begin in a year. A four-story new facility will be built next to the renovated historic Fallon Building, on Market Street at Octavia Street. The three-sided lot is bordered by Waller Street.

Most significantly, a new design has been developed for the exterior of the Waller Street side of the proposed new facility. Comments from community members indicated it was viewed as "too monolithic"; the new scheme softens the facade. Additionally, architect Jane Cee said the entire new structure has again been lowered; the overall height has been reduced about three feet on the Market Street side and six feet on the Waller Street side.

The center's next step is to work on pricing for the revised design and to finalize the design. Several refinements will probably be made, Cee said, but the overall design is pretty much completed. "Today, we've completed the first



Model survey: Jeffrey Senna and Larry Struck examine an architectural mock-up of the planned community center.

major phase," said CCP board member Dana Van Gorder. "From now to March it will be refinements. After tonight, we're not going to make a whole lot of changes. The whole project is very much on time."

Other changes to the community center include adding a unisex bathroom on the third floor and increasing the size of the youth space. A reconfiguration of the commercial cafe's facade on the ground floor has been completed as well as the front doors of the center.

Changes have been made to the planned auditorium on the second floor, with an additional entrance. As the result of public input, bicycle parking has been added in the building. The stage in

the multipurpose room has been made portable; this was also the result of community input, as residents who attended the meetings felt a permanent stage would limit the types of uses for the room.

The center still has meeting space for community groups, a child watch area, a ceremonial room, and the roof-top deck. Changes have been made in terms of the layout of rooms in the center, Cee added. ▼

The CCP's next board meeting takes place Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m. at their new office, 1748 Market Street. For more information, call (415) 241-1526.

## Grab those brooms for 'Great Sweep' Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

It's another "Great Sweep." Yes, right after Election Day, the city's movers and shakers are expected to join thousands of citizens who will sweep sidewalks and pick up trash throughout San Francisco this Saturday, November 7. People can arrive at locations throughout the city to grab a broom and help out; participants should wear heavy gloves and bring plenty of water to drink.

Mayor Willie Brown launched the Great Sweep program last November, and followed it up with one in May. This Saturday's will be the third such citywide operation, being organized by the Department of Public Works

(DPW) in conjunction with Norcal Waste Systems and other companies. During the first two events, over 100 tons of trash was collected, according to the mayor's office.

Described as a cooperative effort between public agencies and private citizens, Great Sweeps are people working together by sweeping sidewalks, picking up trash, and generally making their neighborhoods more beautiful.

DPW spokesman Alex Mamak said the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band will help kick off the Great Sweep at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in Civic Center Plaza. Other entertainers will also be on hand, as well as DPW workers who will be handing out free T-shirts. Mamak said a group

of motorcycle riders will be doing stunts with brooms, in an effort to stir up excitement.

District 8 represents the Castro and people can arrive at many sites, including the Women's Building, 3542 18th Street; Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street; and the Harvey Milk Academy, at 19th and Collingwood streets. In Noe Valley, people can show up at the fire station at 100 Hoffman Avenue, the fire station at 3880 26th Street, and the Upper Noe Recreation Center on 30th Street. ▼

For more information, call (415) 554-5447 or log on at [sanfrancisco.sidewalk.com](http://sanfrancisco.sidewalk.com) to volunteer.

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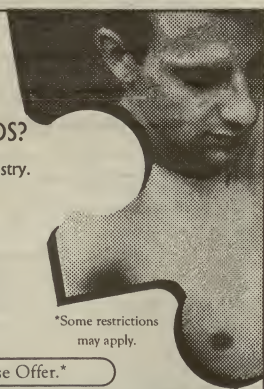
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# Castro assault victim seeks witnesses

by Timothy Rodrigues

A gay man said he was assaulted in the Castro on Saturday, October 24 by a man and a woman yelling anti-gay slurs, and needs witnesses to the incident if his case is to proceed.

Peter Lee, a 42-year-old resident of the Castro neighborhood, suffered only minor injuries from the attack, but his situation highlights the importance of witnesses in moving forward with an investigation in attacks like this.

Lee was in the crosswalk with Zack, his dog, heading towards Zapata Taqueria on 18th Street shortly after 2 p.m. when a late-model, off-white Chevy Impala cut in front of him.

Although Lee thought little of that incident, he next heard the passengers in the car yell "fucking faggot" at another pedestrian.

Lee, taking offense at homophobic speech in the Castro area, yelled back, "If you are going to use that language get out of the neighborhood."

The suggestion apparently inflamed the two already agitated occupants of the vehicle — a heavy-set, white female, about 5'3", with pale skin and stringy hair, and a black male, about 5'6", possibly in his late 20s; both leapt from the car and attacked Lee.

The scuffle, which lead to a cut on Lee's temple and a bruise on his chest, ended when people in the neighborhood intervened.

"I couldn't believe the number of people who came up to me and offered me their support," said Lee. "The people who got involved kept me from getting further injuries. I hugged two people that came to my aid."

Lee commented that he had observed past incidents in the neighborhood where people seemed reluctant to get involved, and speculated that the recent killing of Matthew Shepard may have created an increased commitment for people intervening in hate crimes.

## Tie-breaker sought

Lee said one of those who intervened managed to get at least a partial license plate number from the vehicle, possibly the old blue or black California plates: XAS 166; unfortunately that my not be



Peter Lee and Zack were foiled in their efforts to get a burrito.

enough information without confirming witnesses, as law enforcement officials cautioned that the owners of the vehicle may not be the perpetrators of the assault.

Feeling shaken after the incident, Lee returned home "for comfort." At first reluctant to file a report with police, he was convinced by his lover and friends to pursue the matter.

Although better for his mental health, heading home before calling police may have caused a bit of a problem now coming to light as police seek to pursue an investigation.

Lee did not stop to get the names and numbers of possible witnesses at the scene, and since the police visited him at his home for the report, they were not able to gather any potential witnesses either.

A San Francisco Police Department source verified that a lack of witnesses does slow down an investigation and may cause a reluctance to aggressively pursue an investigation that might not produce a case strong enough to survive in court.

Without a "tie-breaking witness," the case is basically the word of one person against another, and may be difficult to prove to a jury.

"District attorneys have the ethical duty not to charge what can't be proven beyond a reason-

able doubt," said Susan Breall, a San Francisco assistant district attorney with experience prosecuting a variety of cases.

However, she cautioned that people should not over-interpret that standard and emphasized that no one should second guess the district attorneys who are responsible for prosecution.

In the case of assault or other violent crime, Breall believes the safety of the victim is paramount, but if possible, it would be helpful for the victim to gather the names of some witnesses, or ask people who saw the crime to stay with them at the scene until police arrive.

Breall is also a great fan of whistles as a way to attract possible witnesses and assistance to a potential attack as well as ward off would-be attackers, mentioning that she had not seen much promotion of that effort of late.

People who witness crimes, as in the assault on Lee, may be very helpful in a prosecution and are encouraged to come forward at the scene or even after the attack by contacting the investigative branch of the police department or the district attorney's office. ▼

**Peter Lee urges people who witnessed the attack on him on October 24 to contact him at (415) 552-0769.**

# Puckett crony in Poliakov death to walk free in four months

by Ed Walsh

The final court chapter in the murder case against Josh Puckett is over. Puckett's former pal, Mardy Kisner, 24, has been sentenced to two years in prison for burglary and for being an accomplice after the fact to involuntary manslaughter. Kisner pleaded guilty last week to both charges. With credit for time served and good behavior, he will likely go free in four months.

Kisner told police he woke up on the Sunday before Labor Day last year to find 29-year-old Vitaly Poliakov dead and so badly beat-

en that he said he couldn't recognize him. The killing took place in a home belonging to a friend of Kisner's, in the upscale East Bay city of Orinda. Kisner said he helped Puckett dispose of Poliakov's body in a creek in Puckett's home town of Atascadero, about halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Kisner told police that Puckett said he killed Poliakov "because he's a fag and he likes me."

But in an interview with this reporter, Kisner said his statements to police were a lie and that he never saw Poliakov's body. He said police led him to believe that if he confessed to helping Puck-

ett, he would not be charged.

In September, as part of a plea bargain agreement, Puckett, 18, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and burglary. He was sentenced to 13 years, eight months. With credit for time served and good behavior in prison, Puckett will be free in 10 years.

Puckett says he's not gay or bisexual and told police he hit Poliakov repeatedly with a cider bottle to fend off a sexual assault. But investigators had insisted that blood spatter evidence indicates the fatal hit likely came from behind while Poliakov was already down. ▼

## LEGAL QUESTION?

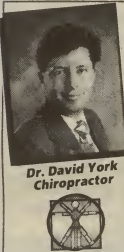


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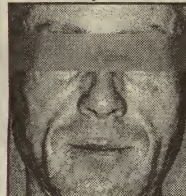
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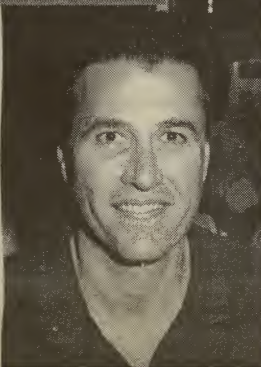
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**M**ore than 30 pet owners, organized by PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), turned out on October 31, along with their pets, for a march through the Castro in support of Proposition G, the measure protecting San Francisco renters. Voters in Tuesday's election overwhelmingly supported the legislation, giving it a handy victory.

**Bukowski new ED at  
ABC Positive Resources**

by Cynthia Laird

**A**fter completing a six-month search process, the board of directors at AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC) Positive Resource Center has named Ken Bukowski as the organization's new executive director. Bukowski replaces Robert Emerson, who had been serving as interim executive director following the resignation earlier this year of Paul Causey.

"Ken brings the experience, commitment, and vision needed to lead the agency," said Gary Virginia, board president. "He is focused on making sure we provide the best possible services for people living with HIV/AIDS."

Bukowski will earn an annual salary of \$58,500; the agency has an annual budget of \$875,000.

Prior to being named executive director, Bukowski served as associate director of the agency and was primarily responsible for fundraising and financial management. He was executive director of the Lavender Youth Recre-



New ABC head Ken Bukowski

ation and Information Center (LYRIC) for two and a half years before joining ABC Positive Resource Center at the end of 1997.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected as executive director of an agency with a great reputation for meeting client needs, an incredible staff who are experts in their field, and a dedicated group of volunteers who serve as the

backbone of the organization," Bukowski said.

ABC Positive Resource Center serves over 2,500 people living with HIV/AIDS each year and is recognized as the preeminent provider of benefits counseling and employment services in Northern California, Bukowski said. In fact, Bukowski said he anticipates hiring people soon to help the agency meet the needs of its clients, particularly regarding employment services.

"As we witness the epidemic continue to impact the most disenfranchised communities, while at the same time seeing treatment options improve the length and quality of life for many individuals, it is clear that Positive Resource Center's comprehensive program of employment services and benefits counseling is essential to help people secure financial self-sufficiency," Bukowski added. ▼

**For information on services provided by ABC Positive Resource Center, call (415) 558-9845.**

**Alameda County AIDS office accepting  
community award nominations until Mon.**

by Cynthia Laird

**T**he Alameda County Public Health Department, Division of AIDS and Communicable Disease, has announced that it is accepting nominations for its 1998 HIV/AIDS Community Services Awards. The deadline for submissions is this Monday, November 9 in several categories, including care and treatment services, education and prevention services, volunteerism, youth and young adult, and media.

Organizers said the youth and media categories are new this year.

On Monday, November 30, there will be a reception honoring awardees, and someone who will receive a special Lifetime Achievement Award.

The community services awards recognize distinguished individuals involved in the HIV/AIDS effort in Alameda County. The awards provide an opportunity for the Office of AIDS to acknowledge people whose contributions make an impact in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Awards are for people who work in the community and nominations are received from the community at large. Employees of the Office of AIDS or the Division of AIDS and Communicable Disease cannot submit nominations or be nominated, organizers said.

Criteria for the selection process includes a demonstrated commitment to the AIDS effort in Alameda County, length of service, and scope of contribution. Entries must be typed or word

processed.

Previous awardees include: Gary Randolph Harmon in 1994; Clifton Charles Wilson in 1995; and Gloria Jean Lockett in 1996. Last year the award was presented in several categories, including Scott Halem for care and treatment; Excell McGinnis for volunteerism; and Dr. Robert C. Scott for education and prevention. Organizers said that previous winners can not be nominated again, which allows different people to receive recognition. ▼

**For a nomination form or to attend the reception, call (510) 873-6500 and ask for Earnest. The Office of AIDS is located at 1970 Broadway, Suite 1130, in Oakland. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. Monday.**



# New pride board president elected

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee, Inc. has a new board president, Executive Director Teddy Witherington announced. Openly gay Calvin Gipson was elected by his fellow board members, several of whom are also newcomers to the board, which will oversee the 1999 and 2000 pride events.

Also at last month's election, seven new board members were chosen, joining three returning members. Five vacant seats remain; Witherington said the board decided to reserve those seats for women and transgender applicants.

Gipson, an archivist and special projects coordinator for Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's looking forward to helping organize the next two pride events, which will include the first pride of the new century. San Francisco traditionally has one of the larger gay pride celebrations in the world, and Gipson pointed out that the 1999 event will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Stonewall, the riots that marked the beginning of the modern gay rights movement.

"It's a good time to be queer in San Francisco," Gipson said. "We want to really make this a community event and have the community come together and celebrate collectively as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender."

Gipson pointed out that the queer community continues to struggle for civil rights, equality, and acceptance. Gipson has been active in the city's gay community, though this is the first time he's been involved with the pride organization. He is on the speakers



New Pride president  
Calvin Gipson

bureau of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), served on the board of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, served as membership coordinator for the South Bay Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and is a member of Queer Arts Resources and the Media Alliance.

Gipson's professional background includes corporate sales and events management for companies such as Apple, Oracle, and Cadence Systems.

## Theme parked

Witherington, who will be organizing his second San Francisco gay pride event in 1999, said he thinks the organization is "in for a thrilling period," with the new board and leadership. "There will be even more shaking it up than last year," he said, referring to last year's popular theme.

This year's theme will be decided by the board when they meet this Tuesday, November 10, said Witherington. Of the 33

theme suggestions, the field was narrowed to three that will be voted on. The meeting is open to the public. Advertising will start soon, he said, for program submissions for next year's pride celebration, and there are plans for a logo contest.

In addition to Gipson, another new director is Stephan Edwards, currently Mr. San Francisco Leather 1998 and Mr. Powerhouse, who's serving as treasurer. Edwards worked with South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events (SMMILE) in producing the Folsom Street and Dore Alley street fairs, and is assisting the Stop AIDS Project with a new HIV prevention campaign targeting the South of Market and leather communities.

Also newly elected is Nicki Randolph, West Coast marketing specialist for WB20 television (formerly KOFY), which has televised the Pride Parade annually since 1995. "Being a child from the 1960s, I still like to step out front and make a political statement. Our lives are just as relevant as anyone else's and we shouldn't be forced to take a back seat to anyone," said Randolph.

Gipson echoed her statement. "A look at the violence that's happening, with Matthew Shepard and others, shows we need to remind the world we're human beings. We deserve equality and our rights," said Gipson.

Other new board members are Joey Cain, Jason Owen, Derrick Wilson, and Ronald Wong. Returning board members are Joshua Smith, who's vice president and has served for five years; Bill Beasley, another senior board member who's served for five years; and Michael Fullam, who's starting his second year on the board.

## Debt apparently retired

In other pride committee news, Witherington told the *B.A.R.* that the organization's financial statements have just been audited, with a report due soon. "I thought it would take two years to retire the debt, but it seems we've done it in a single year. I'm looking forward with great confidence to the parade and celebration," Witherington said.

Witherington said people interested in serving on the board should send a resume to Gipson's attention. The pride board hopes to fill vacancies as quickly as possible. ▼

Resumes can be sent to: Board President, SFLGBT Pride Celebration Committee, 1390 Market Street, Suite 1225, San Francisco, CA 94102. For more information, call the pride committee office at (415) 864-3733.

## Correction

The photo on page 39 of the October 29 *Bay Area Reporter* incorrectly listed the amount of money raised at the Mr. and Miss Gay San Francisco Pageant; the event brought in \$1,500. Also, the name of one of the winners, Tom Basch, was misspelled. We regret the errors.

## Greening the Castro



Volunteers from Friends of the Urban Forest plant one of 45 trees in the Castro last Saturday. Some 60 people turned out for the occasion. A similar planting is scheduled for the Mission District on December 5. For information on participating, call (415) 543-5000.

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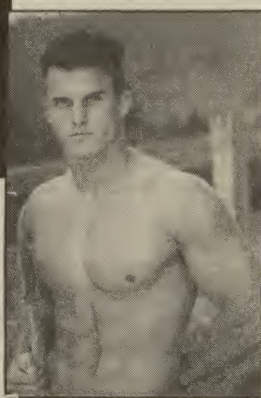


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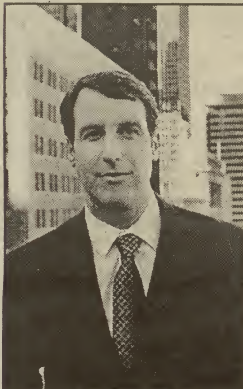
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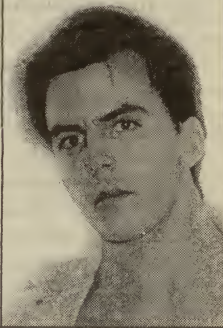
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Volume 28, Number 45  
5 November 1998PUBLISHER  
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## OPEN FORUM

## The GOP's backlash blues

It's been a long time since the phrase "Happy Election Day" meant this much to us. It was a happy day, and a very happy night, as the returns started coming in. Now we can't stop singing the song "Mr. Backlash," written by gay African-American poet Langston Hughes and Nina Simone:

You give me second class houses and second class schools  
Do you think all colored people are second class folks?

The world is big, big and white and round,  
And it's full of folks like me who are black,  
yellow, beige and brown.

Mr. Backlash, I'm gonna leave you with the backlash blues

Just what do you think I got to lose?  
I'm gonna leave you with the backlash blues.

The backlash blues have said good-bye and good riddance to Lauch Faircloth, the obnoxiously theocratic Republican from North Carolina, and to Al D'Amato. D'Amato's record on gay issues was admittedly better than many of his colleagues on that side of the aisle but his image of America was still far too shrill and extreme for him to be anything more intellectually challenging or socially engaging than a talk radio host.

After the GOP tried so very hard to make the election a referendum on Bill Clinton, it is delicious to watch them now, pretending otherwise. After bragging that they anticipated a filibuster-proof Senate and an increase of as many as 30 seats in the House, Republican leaders are now backpedaling and spinning to minimize their defeat. And it isn't working. Despite Newt Gingrich's attempt to paint the evening as some sort of victory for the Republicans because the party managed to "only" lose a handful of seats rather than its majority status, virtually all reputable columnists and journalists in the country are correctly calling this a blow to Gingrich. And not the kind he likes

to get in parked cars, either.

Proposition results across the country also proved that voters are sick of the far right's insistence on scrutinizing their beds and bongs, but the night was not a total victory for progressives. Gender neutrality in marriage laws was defeated in two states; there is a lot of education ahead of us if we are to adequately explain to the rest of America why the issue is necessary.

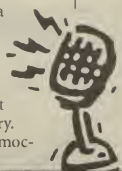
And, even after the gains by Democrats, there are still far too many members of Congress who voted for the heinous Defense of Marriage Act and against the fair and sensible Employee Non-Discrimination Act, too many who signed the Contract With America and grovel at the money and influence trough of the Christ-

ian Coalition. The balance of power shifted perceptibly, but not far enough.

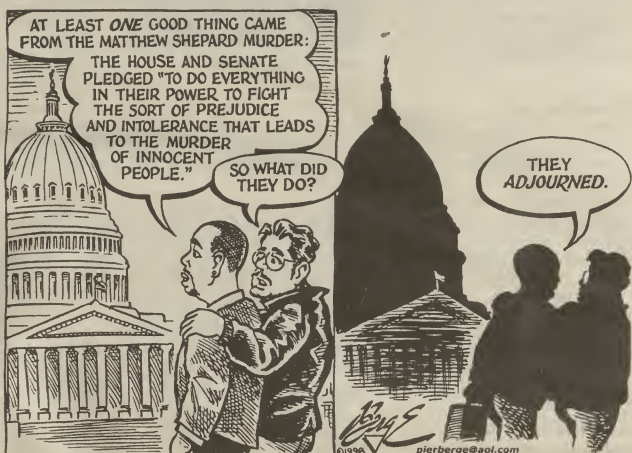
But we don't want to cavil when the overall picture is rosier than anyone dared predict.

That is especially true here in San Francisco, where Tom Ammiano will take his rightful place as president of the Board of Supervisors in January.

Harvey Milk, wherever he is in the next world, must be very happy to see Ammiano's ascent, but no more so than many San Franciscans dealing with the problems of this world (AIDS, homelessness, a personally indifferent transit system, and lack of education, to name but a few). The business interests are going to hate his ideas — they already do — but personally, we can't wait to see what they are. ▼



## Editorial



## And now for something completely different: the truth

by Jeff Getty

In late August I began my internship for New College field study as Tom Ammiano's campaign public relations volunteer. I wanted to round out my media experience by working on a political campaign. I also wanted to help Tom because he has helped people with AIDS, myself included, so many times that I have lost count. Now I must write up a paper for my school advisor, telling her what I've learned. Here goes:

I learned that the truth is so rare, so disguised, suppressed, twisted, and withheld that it is nearly impossible to locate. And when you think you have it, when you think you can tell it, your voice is but a muffled whisper amid a pandemonium of lies. Oh well, such is politics. Why should the gay community and its power struggles be any different than the rest of the world?

Why? Because we have so much to gain, and so much to lose. I am nauseated and discouraged from such things that I have witnessed coming from our so-called friends in the gay and lesbian community. One would think that if we had a chance to elect a gay president to the Board of Supervisors, we could at least pull together and focus to accomplish this goal. One would think that we could put aside petty differences and see the larger picture: that three gay supervisors, one being board president, might lead to substantial gains for our community as well as gains for national and international gay rights and acceptance.

Fortunately we have succeeded. But only against the will of self-serving manipulating sold-out gay leaders kowtowing to a vindictive and cynical mayor, Willie Brown.

While endorsing Tom Ammiano, Willie set his machine off to do everything and anything it could to topple Tom from first

place. So what? Willieville is populated by many gays and lesbians. What were they thinking? Did they really believe that Barbara Kaufman, Mabel Teng, and Gavin Newsom would carry the torch of light to shine over and illuminate the evil that led to Matthew Shepard's murder? Or for that matter, my own gay bashing one year ago to this very day? Gays who turn their backs on their own leaders to fulfill their need for power may find themselves facing Shepard's fence one day. But by then it will be too late.

Who could fault Roberta Achtenberg for working for the Chamber of Commerce while that enlightened group of individual's lethal sister, the "Committee on Jobs," helped sponsor a last-minute hate campaign against Tom? I could.

Where were you, Roberta, the politician whose campaign slogan was "I will not sell you out?" Why were you associating with those who were calling people at home during dinner, pretending to be an independent polling firm, and trying to convince people to re-think their vote for Tom by bringing up such atrocities as Tom's disrespect for Colin Powell?

(People like political consultant Robert Barnes, who made a bundle featuring Teng on slate cards for the supposedly gay Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club. Barnes, who's best friend is John Whitehurst, is the man who gave us Barbara Kaufman and no gays on the finance committee for the first time in 10 years. It is no surprise that Barnes sold out to the Nevada casinos — as a political consultant, of course Barnes is for sale — and fought against Proposition 5, not as a consultant, but in the name of the gay community. Excuse me Robert, you hairdresser for downtown development and big business,

you do not represent the gay community per se. You represent only the accumulation of cash in the swollen pockets on your tight red political whore's dress.)

Then the real dirty tricks started. The most desperate activity was detected on Election Day when a mayor's gay aide was caught ripping down Harvey Milk Club door hangers in the Castro and replacing them with endorsements that featured Teng and Newsom. How petty. How desperate. It was at that time that I knew Tom was going to win.

Thank goodness that the citizens of San Francisco saw through the lies and voted with their hearts and minds. If only our other gay leaders would do the same. Not everyone agrees with Tom, but he is our best leader in many years.

He is honest (so rare) and cares about the little guys. When I asked him for permission to fight back against his enemies, he said, "No, Jeff, I am going to fight the good fight." He proved that negative campaigning does not always pay off.

A friend told me not to write this column. He said one should be gracious in victory. I thought about his advice long and hard and decided to go ahead anyway. If I have injured anyone's reputation I am sorry, I'm sure you will get over it. But the way I see it, we almost took a step backward due to petty rivalries and short term gains for a few people. I am all for healing the wounds and unity, but there needs to be some level of respect forthcoming from the mayor's office and the business community.

I write these words not as a former volunteer for Ammiano, but as an individual person living with AIDS, a graduating student at New College and continuing student in the school of life. ▼



## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Corrosive crime

The brutal killing in Wyoming has forced the entire nation to question and reexamine the principles upon which our society is founded.

With devious crimes of this nature it is hard for general strangers, let alone close friends and family, to have any emotions other than pain, sorrow, frustration, and even hate. For it is the basic and fundamental job of government to secure the life, liberty, and property of all its citizens from unwanted force or fraud. The government must not discriminate in the manner it treats its citizens before the laws, and this includes government protection of its citizens from crimes of a corrosive nature, irrespective of social and economic status or background. The government has initiated discriminatory practices in the way it treats certain citizens before the law in the past and in many regards it still does. However, as hard as it may be to see so now, in such trying times, positive change is occurring. The outpouring of flowers and cards for the departed Matthew Shepard, as well as the candlelight marches, show that the mainstream public has become more sensitive and educated to the myths that surround gay people. The rightful condemnation of the brutal murder by both Republicans and Democrats shows some bipartisan agreement as to how gay people should not be treated.

However, perhaps more important than the political debating and public opinion polls is the fact that Matthew Shepard was able to live his life honestly, with compassion for other people and was able to stand tall and be proud of who he was. It is very clear that his parents gave their son genuine love, encouragement, and acceptance that allowed him to express these sort of character virtues that have caused people to weep upon his departure from this world. I deeply regret that I never was a close friend with Matthew Shepard and such regrets should be in the minds of everyone else of whom never got to know this person. It is also my regret that my humble words will not be able to immediately abolish the pain and suffering those family members and close friends must be feeling. I do not know what else to call the people that commit these types of crimes except bullies, brutes, and bigots of the most twisted and abominable kind, and they will surely have to take responsibility for their crime in the courts of this world and the next. Matthew Shepard's family and friends should never lose hope for a better tomorrow, for as long as there are individuals that are willingly to stand up to the bullies, bigots, and brutes of the world, then every tomorrow can become a better one.

Edward T.J. Brown  
Dahran, Saudi Arabia

## Insight in an unlikely place

[The following was sent to "Sports Complex" columnist Jim Provenzano:]

Thanks for your article in the October 22 B.A.R. ["Blood on the Scarecrow"]. Words fail me, but they obviously don't fail you! Who would have thought a wimp like me would look to the sports page for insight and inspiration?

Brian Bringardner  
San Francisco

## Cartoon interpretations

[The following was sent to cartoonist Ben Carlson:]

Thank you so much for your great drawing of the horrible vicious murder of Matthew Shepard [October 22]. You captured the entire deep hate-filled, cruel tear-bringing essence of that awful situation completely! Also, I loved your evidently heartfelt emotion in picturing the knife wound in Matthew's side. I know, in my heart and mind, that you were seeing in your own heart and mind the sword wound in the side of Jesus - from the Roman's sword - right?

I couldn't quit crying after hearing the first broadcasts. I cried; I swore; I cried; I hated; I cursed church people and their hate-filled downing of us - then cried some more! I've since calmed down, and am trying to tell myself to forgive.

I framed your picture, with the editorial, but before I did - and please forgive my intrusion of your art - I sketched crosses on four spectators: two men in back, the woman in front, and "Reverend" Phelps reaching for the gun! Hope you don't take offense!

Thank you again, Ben. Keep up the good work.

Ray Leland Paley  
Mt. Shasta, CA

[Ben Carlson responds: Thanks for your appreciation. I didn't consciously intend to allude to Jesus's wound, although I can't deny the parallel. I did, however, intend the character you identified as Reverend Phelps to instead be recognized as Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who along with a majority of the Court left standing a recent Cincinnati city charter amendment that denies discrimination protection to queer people.]

## Shepard was not unique

On the same day the death of Matthew Shepard was reported, a very small article in the back of the newspapers appeared as follows:

"Vacaville - Police are asking for help from anyone who may have witnessed a Vacaville street fight Friday evening that left one man dead.

"The victim, Darren Michael Siebert, a 25-year-old Vacaville resident, died about two hours after a group of men attacked him on the 200 block of Bel Aire Drive.

"Police who responded to the scene about 7:21 p.m. said witnesses saw Siebert walking alone on the street when a group of four or five men confronted him. After an argument, Siebert was knocked to the ground and punched and kicked repeatedly, according to Vacaville police Sergeant Scott Paulin.

"The suspects fled on foot and in an unidentified vehicle. Anyone with information regarding the crime is asked to call the Vacaville Police at (707) 449-5200."

So far this is the end of that story, a small article in the back of the paper about a local killing.

On the other hand, Matthew Shepard left the bar willingly with his two assailants, was not kidnapped, and no mention was made of why he left a place of safety to go out with two unknown young men. What was their purpose - were they to "do" some drugs, or perhaps smoke some grass, or perhaps out for a sexual encounter.

Shepard's killers including the two women surely should be tried for first degree murder and if convicted should receive the death penalty.

My objection is to the great amount of publicity pouring out for Matthew, who left a place of safety and went out into a place of unknown danger with two strangers. Darren Michael Siebert was walking down the street in the evening hours and ended up being kicked to death. I do not see any amount of sympathy from the B.A.R. or the gay community for this relatively obscure killing which only merited a few lines in the back of the paper.

All murder is to be condemned and the perpetrators punished. However, Shepard's death does not deserve all this publicity while Siebert's is relegated to obscurity. It's sad that most murder victims are forgotten soon, while others are elevated to hero status, which in the above case demonstrates the power of media events and selective indignation.

Andrew Betancourt  
San Francisco

## For whom the call tolls

A message to all: The right wing is viciously renewing their attack against the gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender communities along with any other people who they deem not to fit into their definition of having "Christian values."

Full page advertisements spewing out falsehoods and hate have been taken out in major newspapers to present us as immoral sinners, child molesters and pagans who just need the right "guidance" to change. This is the same old crap that these religious bigots have been preaching for eons!

We must fight back any way we can, otherwise we will face another Nazi-like era ushered in by these zealots, all with the full support of Republican officials, who give these nuts the power base they so desperately need to continue this hateful campaign.

Call the following right wing toll-free 800 telephone numbers to voice your disapproval of their actions. Calling this number results in a minimum 50 cent charge to the recipient. Ten calls would cost \$5, et cetera. You can simply call and hang up when the line is answered, the minimum charge still applies. Remember to call the number from a phone booth as an 800 number can identify the caller, even if blocked! If hundreds or hopefully thousands call, we can make these very dangerous and anti-gay organizations pay for their hate!! You may be saving lives and our freedom by diverting their money from spewing messages of hate to paying their large phone bill!! Its time to do it.

Christian Coalition: 1-800-325-4746

Focus on the Family: 1-800-232-6459

Family Research Council: 1-800-225-4008

Concerned Women for America: 1-800-458-8797

Tell them you do not support their approval of the Wyoming killing of Matthew Shepard!! Do it now, without further delay!

Dana Hansen  
San Francisco

## Consigned to investigation

This office is investigating a criminal matter against "I Found It!" an antique consignment store located at 1750 Market Street. If you have any information, please contact me at (415) 392-3070. Thank you for your assistance.

Jeff Woo  
Criminal Investigator  
San Francisco District Attorney's Office

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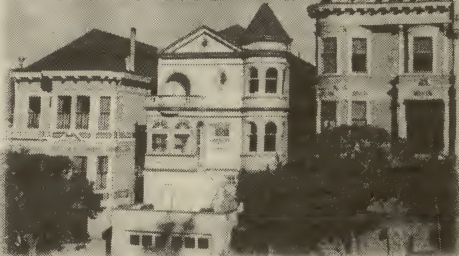
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### Castro ain't no documentary

After watching the documentary *The Castro* on PBS, I went back to the neighborhood where I spent so many years. I was there at the Elephant Walk the night of the "White Night Riots," left only a half an hour before the police stormed in. I worked at the Castro Theatre for several years, knew Elbert LaSelle, the organist. I used to drink at Twin Peaks with my friends from San Francisco State after school. I worked for years for a technical writer whose home and offices were a block off Castro. I studied with a roommate who was in law school at Cafe Flore every Saturday. I lived on Herman Street with a girl who worked at the Scandinavian Delicatessen and later on Collingwood near the park and for a short time on Castro Street itself, just over the hill in Noe Valley.

Needless to say, I have some affinity with the neighborhood. I remember it before the plague, when at the onset, a doctor friend of mine joked about "gay cancer," and later, when no one was joking, and the residents began vaporizing, and I left and moved to Berkeley, because it was too painful, and frightening, to live in the city any more.

There's always a sense of expecting a place to be the same as you left it last, even when a decade has passed. It's why Gertrude Stein wrote "There is no there there" upon returning to Oakland and finding the neighborhood had totally changed. I guess I'd hoped, prayed, things would be the same when I walked into the Castro Station and the Edge and Badlands, and of course it wasn't, although there was definitely a there, there. But what a self-conscious one, I thought. Newer, hipper, still living for the moment, but not with the same innocence. Maybe it's a good thing. I don't think the old Castro Street necessarily was a good thing. But it seemed... necessary. And very un-self conscious. Of course this is all hindsight. At the time I grumbled the most loudly about "life out of balance." Well, it's definitely reached a balancing point. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd see a woman playing pool at Moby Dick's, which is where I ended up at the end of the evening, shocked that the person in the mirror, myself, that I spied when I walked in the door, looked like all the other patrons I'd tried and failed to pick up the last time I was there, probably 15 years ago, too young and clean shaven to be very popular there back then.

And where were all these patrons now? The documentary said 10,000 died between 1985 and 1990 in the Castro alone. And then it hit me. Why I didn't like the neighborhood or the bars any more. Why I couldn't drink my vodka and soda in peace without starting to weep, quite literally. *They were all still there.* It was like when my father died and I told everyone "he hasn't gone anywhere, he's still hanging around," the time a friend went to Dachau and told me she couldn't stand the energy of the still suffering dead, the time another friend of mine, a psychic, visited Pearl Harbor and looked into the water and saw all the sailors who had died on the U.S.S. *Arizona* swabbing the deck and singing. The bar was crowded with the unseen, wanting to sip my drink whispering "join us," but also, "We don't want to be dead. We want to be like you. We want... to love." That was their mantra. They didn't want it. Of course not. They played too hard... death was the penalty.

Daryl Glen  
Los Gatos, CA

### Who owns the Castro?

That flag should've come down to half-mast the day the residents and workers of the Castro, and the queer community, let the Merchants of Upper Market dictate social policy in the neighborhood! Then the glorious facade that the Castro "spirit" represented a commitment to human rights would have been forever exposed to be dead. Why do you let people, who have no right to speak in our name, they just own a business, why do you let them decide for you what happens in the Castro? How can you dare speak of compassion when you refuse to give it out to the poor (and I am speaking directly to businesses and individuals in the neighborhood who wear the mask of compassion for PWAs)? And these special police officers, these "rent-a-cops," are they really "protecting" us, or are they just protecting the profits of the merchants? One of them has just acquired part ownership of the Castro Station. Tell me that isn't a conflict of interest! They move out the peaceful panhandlers and let the obnoxious and "scary" ones stay. That is a political technique used to push your buttons in order to make this a black and white issue!

The Castro is our neighborhood and we must take it back from the people who do not share our interests! We must kick out the mega-chains and the stores that mark-up prices on everyday goods and offer incentives to small business owners, owners who are committed to every individual in the Castro, no matter whether they're poor or not. If this policy of greed and disdain for the poor doesn't stop in the Castro, then I suggest we get together and shut the Castro down until it does.

Kevin Weaver  
Pacifica, CA

### Chorus of approval

Writers have criticized the *Bay Area Reporter* in recent weeks for not reviewing the 20th Anniversary Gala Concert of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. While we in the chorus appreciate the show of support that those letters represent from members of the community, I want to make it clear that we have no quarrel with the B.A.R.'s editorial decision.

The B.A.R. has supported the chorus over the years by running preview articles on our concerts. As any marketing professional will tell you, this advance support from the gay press is infinitely more important to the chorus in letting prospective audience members know about our concerts and creating interest in what we will sing. When the chorus began 20 years ago, some newspapers refused to carry announcements about our concerts. This homophobia in the press was a contributing factor to the financial loss the chorus suffered from its 1981 national tour. Sadly, some of the 200 choruses in the international network that trace their beginnings to this tour by the chorus still face this kind of overt discrimination.

In the diverse community of San Francisco, the chorus will never meet everyone's expectations; however, we continually strive to do our best. We are "of you," after all. We are your brothers, lovers, co-workers, friends, fathers, and sons. We sing to entertain you, to move you, to make you laugh occasionally, and, yes, to make you proud. With the close of the chorus's 20th anniversary season, we are indebted to the B.A.R. and the entire LGBT community of the Bay Area for your support over the years. Thank you very much.

John B. McLeod  
President, Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc.  
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

### Should ADAP Boycott Sustiva?

For two months, AIDS service and advocacy organizations have been faced with a dilemma about the new anti-HIV drug Sustiva (efavirenz). Data about how the drug performs in combination with nucleoside analog drugs show that in the short-term, people with HIV may benefit more from Sustiva than from the protease inhibitor Crixivan. This appears to be the only fact that DuPont Pharmaceuticals has focused on when deciding to charge \$1,942 more per year for Sustiva than people are currently paying for a very similar drug from the same class, Viramune (nevirapine). The inflated price of Sustiva (\$4,257 per year) has legitimately raised concerns in the AIDS-affected communities of the United States, where at least some well-heeled individuals will be able to afford it.

The issues are these: AIDS drug assistance programs (ADAP) in most states are stretched beyond capacity. Many ADAPs have long waiting lists and offer only limited choices for treatment. AIDS advocates are now hard pressed to convince ADAPs that Sustiva is so superior to other drugs in its class that the inflated price is worth it. The secondary arguments that are advanced to support including Sustiva on ADAP lists are spurious: there is no evidence to support using a "protease-sparing" regimen, one that does not include a protease inhibitor, over using a protease-containing regimen. Which strategy is better? Nobody knows, because nobody has asked the question in the clinic.

The other emotionally charged issue: will the use of Sustiva avoid the fat redistribution problems seen in some people who have been taking protease inhibitors? Again, nobody knows. What we do know is that there are people who have experienced significant fat redistribution, but who have never taken a protease inhibitor. Will Sustiva produce this unwanted side effect after enough people have been exposed to the drug for a long enough time? Refrain: nobody knows yet. So these arguments are at best conjectural. They don't support using Sustiva first (as an example of a so-called "protease-sparing regimen") and definitely do not defend the current high price tag.

DuPont wants to cash in early on their newly approved HIV drug and make their stockholders very rich and happy. They expect to make more than \$500 million in the first year of sales. That is the reality of the world of high finance. But it is not a reality of HIV disease. The price is simply too high for a drug about which we all know too little. Should we be willing to overburden our ADAPs and dramatically increase Medicare expenses in exchange for a drug that is not difficult to manufacture and is owned by one of the wealthiest corporations on the planet? ADAP officials should be asking DuPont these hard questions. The officials who represent us should not just expect answers, they should also demand an immediate price rollback.

Mark Bowers  
San Francisco

Send short, original, legible, and honest letters to the *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103. Include your phone number for our verification purposes (not publication).



## POLITICS

# Thank you, Mrs. President

by Wayne Friday

At this time one year ago every Democratic candidate wanted to publicly embrace President **Bill Clinton** as his polls were soaring, the nation's economy was on track, and party leaders in Congress were holding the Republican-controlled House and U.S. Senate in a political check. After **Monica Lewinsky**, of course, all that quickly changed.

While the president has made somewhat of a political comeback after eight months of scandal (some Democrats actually asked for him to visit their state, but few), it was First Lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** that Democratic candidates for office across the country were begging for help and a last minute appearance, as she suddenly transformed from betrayed wife into a very popular, confident political powerhouse.

Hillary Clinton campaigned in nine states in less than three full days, pushing Democratic nominees for governor, the U.S. Senate, and the House of Representatives, from New York to California. As one political columnist put it, "Hillary is playing the role of Mrs. President with a fiery vengeance" and Democrats nationwide loved it. They have Hillary Clinton to thank for their ability to pick up seats, rather than losing their shirts, this week. The sorry fact is that the Democratic party has lost control of both houses of Congress and over a dozen governorships since Bill Clinton was elected in 1992. Simply put, the man has been a disaster for the party.

Hillary Clinton, however, is a different story: tireless, determined, and in a never-say-die mode. Many of the Democrats who won the close House and Senate races Tuesday would likely tell you, albeit privately, that they will take Hillary, with her no-nonsense style of campaigning, over the womanizing president any day of the week.

One almost has to wonder why the party didn't figure this out years ago - before the president ended up politically wounded and (in case anyone has forgotten) still facing an impeachment vote by Republicans in the next Congress.

## Politics and people

With more than \$300 million being spent in California alone on the statewide propositions and

the numerous candidates' races, the big winners Tuesday were those political consultants, most of who walked away from this week's election with stuffed political pockets.

One guy who can afford to stuff those pockets - and who seems to be a glutton for punishment - **Darrell Issa**, the right wing car alarm magnate who blew \$9 million only to lose the GOP U.S. Senate primary to **Matt Fong** in June. Now Issa is telling anyone who will listen that he plans to run again in 2000 - against **Dianne Feinstein**; he'd would do well to ask **Mike Huffington** (who spent \$35 million of his personal fortune) what it's like to run against the popular Feinstein. Meanwhile, word out of Washington is that Feinstein is high - very high - on Al Gore's veep list.

By the way, Feinstein, who fought hard for **Jim Hormel's** nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg only to be stymied by **Trent Lott** and the Republicans, was mum on the popular Hormel's future last week. Although President Clinton could re-nominate the San Franciscan once a new Congress is seated in January, Lott will still be the Majority Leader and some White House insiders were hinting last week that the president might find another post for Hormel.

One of Hormel's bigger detractors - **Pat Robertson's** politically active Christian Coalition - reportedly distributed tens of thousands of voter guides during this past weekend in countless churches; incidentally, doesn't the Christian Coalition's tax-exempt status supposedly preclude it from engaging in partisan politics?

Calling this week's election "one of the most important elections in the history of this country," longtime Democratic activist **Barbra Streisand** chatted for 30 minutes on the Internet (on America Online) in a get-out-the vote effort on Monday night; Streisand, a close political supporter of President Clinton, told those during the Internet chat that "I feel the American people recently have shown greater objectivity and common sense than either the pundits or the politi-

cians, and we can rely on their wisdom." (So there, you got it straight from La Streisand).

**Jesse Jackson** on whether or not he will seek the Demo presidential nomination in 2000: "I'm not determined to enter the race, but I am determined to set the pace." (Please Jesse, not another campaign of the tiring Jackson jingles.)

As for the 2000 race, incidentally, most Democrats can be thankful the election is not being held this week; if it were, according to a poll just released by **USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup**, Texas GOP Governor **George W. Bush** would whip Al Gore 57 to 39 percent.

We'll have to wait for the final figures, but the other supere candidates in Tuesday's election aren't the only ones who wonder how **Mabel Teng** - with billboards galore and multiple glossy citywide mailings aplenty - managed to keep within the spending cap of \$250,000 in her (failed) bid to become board president.

Did you catch San Francisco Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** (who beat Teng for the position of board president) debating in a recent *Los Angeles Times* story with West Hollywood Mayor **Steve Martin**? The two openly gay politicians engaged in a friendly war of words on the subject of which of the two cities hosts the best Halloween party. As always, Ammiano won.

I know she's disavowing any idea of a run, but former supe **Angela Alioto** sounded all the world like a mayoral candidate last week when appearing on the *SF Politics* cable television show with host **Arthur Bruzzone** and one of the best columnists around, the *Independent's* **Noah Griffin**; incidentally, more than a couple of viewers I know would probably disagree with Griffin that he wasn't "touting the mayor" at least just a bit.

In Sacramento, even some Republican legislators are predicting that San Francisco Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** will be the next Assembly Speaker. "She's a natural, one of the hardest working and brightest up here," one Sacramento veteran said recently. ▼



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## Gay rights pioneers reunite!



Nearly 50 years after the founding of America's first successful gay rights organization, the Mattachine Society, the original members of that pioneering organization reunited for the first time in Los Angeles on October 25. Konrad Stevens, John Gruber, Dale Jennings, and Harry Hay (here on the hillside where Mattachine first met, overlooking the Silver Lake section of L.A.) came together at the behest of San Francisco filmmaker **Eric Slade**, who is making a documentary about lifelong activist Hay. The project is funded in part through grants from the California Council for the Humanities and the Horizons Foundation. For more information, or to contribute to the effort, contact Slade at (415) 752-1277.



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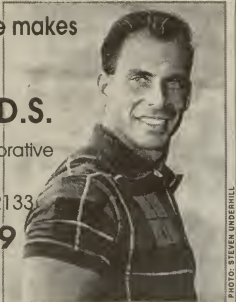


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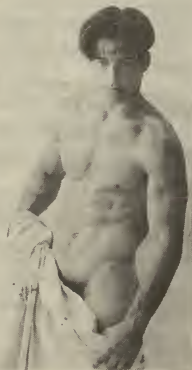
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## Chicago (Cathedral of) Hope

by Sharon Shaw Johnson,  
GLAAD publications  
manager

The Cathedral of Hope is the largest lesbian and gay church in the world located in Dallas, Texas — and someone thinks that that's too much to air. The church, which is in the process of building a new home designed by world-renowned architect Philip Johnson, produced a 30-minute infomercial which talked about the congregation, the new cathedral, and the tenets of faith on which the church is founded. Using Tower Media, an agency in Chicago, Illinois, the church paid \$12,000 for three air slots on WGN, a "superstation" in Chicago that reaches up to 62 million households, many of which are rural. The WGN executives initially approved the program, scheduled it, and cashed the church's check. It then sent a letter to Tower Media on July 30, stating that "due to a miscommunication in out standards approval process, you were given the wrong information regarding [the program]. [It] has not in fact been approved to air on WGN-TV."

No further reason was given for the cancellation, and continuing discussions between the Cathedral of Hope and WGN failed to resolve the matter. On October 28, a lawsuit was filed against WGN by the church, asking that the station adhere to the terms of the contracts as it was signed, and air the production as promised. Sadly, all of the national cable networks which Cathedral of Hope had approached about air time, had rejected the infomercial — however, these stations have the right to do so. What WGN did was agree to air it, and then, whether because of cold feet or overt discrimination, reneged on what is a binding legal agreement.

Please contact WGN and let them know that their viewers deserve the opportunity to see the Cathedral of Hope program, and make up their own minds. Also tell them that their breach of contract sends a message to its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) viewers that they are not valued as an audience. You can contact Tribune Media as well, to let them know how you feel about WGN's decision.

Contact Peter S. Walker, General Manager WGN-TV, 2501 Bradley Place, Chicago, IL, 60618 Fax (773) 528-6857; e-mail wgntv@aol.com; http://www.wgntv.com.

Suddenly Homicide:  
NBC killing stereotypesThis past week NBC's *Homicide: Life on the Street* and *Sud-*

denly *Susan* addressed bisexuality and gay stereotypes, respectively. On the Friday, October 23 episode of the crime drama *Homicide*, Detective Tim Bayliss (Kyle Secor) asks Detective Renee Sheppard (played by actress Michael Michele) out on a date. Renee confusingly asks Bayliss if he is gay, having heard precinct gossip. He denies being gay but says he recently slept "with a guy, [we had] sex ... a couple times." Then asked to describe himself, Bayliss says he's "bi-curious." To which Renee answers that she is bi-curious as well and has in fact dated "bi-guys" before. After the matter-of-fact exchange, they agree to go out. Currently, *Homicide* is the only current primetime television show with a bisexual character. Exchanges like this are groundbreaking dramatic television — television that does not demonize or belittle bisexual people.

On Monday, October 26's *Suddenly Susan*, Pete (Bill Stevenson), the sitcom's gay mailroom person, is encouraged to dress in drag for Halloween and let loose. The next day at work, he shows up in leather pants, and a busy shirt and continues to effeminately let loose on his befuddled coworkers. Hank, his partner, confronts him, calling his new style and attitude a "tired stereotype" and not the Pete he knows and loves. Pete explains his fear that Hank will wake up one day and find himself bored with the often endearingly dull Pete. Hank explains that boring Pete is the man he fell in love with, and that Pete needs to be true to himself. *Suddenly Susan*'s lesson is clear: be yourself.

Please thank *Homicide*, *Suddenly Susan*, and NBC for thought provoking, stereotype breaking television.

Contact Msrs. Barry Levinson, Tom Fontana, and Jim Finnerty, Executive Producers, *Homicide*, c/o NBC Studios, 330 Bob Hope Dr., Burbank, CA 91523; Msrs. Garry Dontzig and Steven Peterman, Executive Producers, *Suddenly Susan*, c/o Warner Bros. Television, 4000 Warner Blvd., Burbank, CA 91522; and Mr. Warren Littlefield, Entertainment President, NBC Television Network, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91523-0001

'Ex-gays' world tour 1998

Two recent articles covering the "ex-gay" movement's continuing campaign against the LGBT community displayed what could be termed a "suspension of disbelief," and while that's crucial in watching fictional films, most people expect more from their

newspapers.

The October 22 *Augusta* (Ga.) *Chronicle* published "Ex-lesbian in Ministry", written by Virginia Norton. The piece follows the story of Jami Breedlove, who is one of the proponents of "conversion" through her Restoration Ministries in Colorado, and is in Georgia to offer a series of talks. The article offers an entirely unbalanced accounting of Breedlove's campaign. The reporter cites statistics purporting Restoration's "success," and makes no attempt to discuss the voluminous evidence regarding the failures of "reparative" therapy, and its damaging effects. Norton then points out that Breedlove "has been picketed by homosexuals."

An October 27 *Washington Times* Culture etc., piece by Julia Duin purports to illustrate the "backlash" against religious political extremists in the wake of Matthew Shepard's murder. "Criticism of homosexuality is being suppressed as 'hate speech'" opens the article, incorporating one of the more absurd contentions of opponents of hate-crimes legislation: that, if enacted, the laws will then lead to prosecution for "thought crimes" or for one's opinions. It then goes on to document three incidents, which Duin uses as evidence for her contention of backlash.

Please write to the *Augusta Chronicle* and the *Washington Times*, and tell them that their shoddy, slanted reporting does nothing to contribute to the important dialogue in this country between communities of faith, the LGBT community and America as a whole. Let them know that writing stories about those who fight against equality for our community, without seeking out the "other side," is irresponsible and inflammatory.

Contact Mr. Will Kennedy, Managing Editor, *Augusta Chronicle*, P.O. Box 1928, Augusta GA, 30913; Fax: (706) 823-3345, e-mail: letters@augustachronicle.com; or via WWW: http://www.augustachronicle.com; and Mr. William Giles, Managing Editor, *Washington Times*, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002-1996, fax: (202) 832-2982, letter@twtdmail.com. ▼

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.





# Monogamy: social and sexual

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Virgin boy meets virgin girl, they fall in love, get married, have sex for the first time on their wedding night, and remain sexually faithful to each other until death do them part. Sounds familiar, right? And maybe once or twice, in the entire history of the human race, it actually happened.

Idealized visions of human sexuality such as this one would be harmless enough, except that they often form the basis for moralistic attacks on sexual non-conformists, especially gay men. So let's take a look at the whole issue of monogamy, including variations on it and deviations from it, from a scientific perspective.

Out there in the animal kingdom, monogamy is connected with the raising of young: in species where it takes the combined efforts of two parents to raise offspring, stable pair-bonds tend to form. This is true of many birds, as well as some species of primates and rodents. The reason is clear enough: if one parent deserts, the offspring will probably die, so evolution only perpetuates the genes of animals that are faithful.

Behind the proper facade of these "monogamous" relationships, however, a lot of hanky-panky goes on. This has been studied by researchers who analyze the DNA of families of animals in the wild. Among most species of "monogamous" birds, for example, it turns out that something like 15 percent of the offspring are fathered by an outsider male. In some species, however, such as tamarin monkeys and prairie voles, all the young are truly the offspring of both members of the pair. Thus, biologists distinguish between "social monogamy," which involves pair-bonding without sexual exclusivity, and "sexual monogamy," which is sexually exclusive.

The willingness of males to sleep around is well understood in an evolutionary context: sex is so "cheap" for a male that it's well worth it for the chance of producing some extra offspring. Why a pair-bonded female would be willing to have sex with a stranger is much less clear, because such a female is already producing about as many offspring as she can. The usual thinking is that females hope to have sex with a genetically "superior" male who can produce better-quality offspring than those produced by her own mate.

In human societies all kinds of sexual arrangements have cropped up, from free love to the harem system, but the dominant pattern has been social monogamy. As with many species, a goodly fraction of all human children — about 10 percent of children in the contemporary U.S., according to some estimates — are not the biological children of their "social fathers." In general, men are more eager to sleep around than women, for the biological reasons just mentioned, but women are willing enough to make the game worth playing.

An extra wrinkle arises in human sexuality, however, because humans have gone further

than most animals in separating sex from reproduction. In evolutionary terms it seems truly bizarre that humans would be willing to expend great efforts and take great

risks to have sex outside their established partnerships, but would then make the sex non-reproductive by the use of condoms, the penetration of non-reproductive orifices, or the choice of partners of the same sex. Evidently, the evolutionary process has been hijacked by the intervention of mind — something that we'll probably see a lot more of in the next million years.

Gays and lesbians are at least as diverse in their relationships as heterosexual people. But because homosexuality eliminates the battle of the sexes, marked differences in styles of partnering have

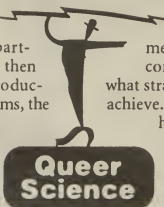
evolved. No longer restrained by the reluctance of women to have sex with them, gay men tend to have more lifetime sex partners, including much more casual sex, that do

heterosexual men. Gay men, in effect, come closer to achieving what straight men would like to achieve. Lesbians, on the other hand, have on average relatively few lifetime sex partners — even if we have to acknowledge the feats of some individual lesbians

such as the admirable Pat Califia, author of *Macho Sluts* and *Doing It For Daddy*.

Of course, many gay men do seek and find Mr. Right, or a sequence of Mr. Rights, and settle down in lifetime or serial monogamy. These partnerships can be sexually exclusive by agree-

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# Problems on and near Fern

by Ron McGlashan

**M**ore drug-related arrests have been made by San Francisco Police officers on Fern Alley. This is a favorite congregating spot for pushers. Residents and SFPD officers are aggressively dealing with this area to stop this activity.

There have also been numerous drug-related arrests on Polk Street between Sutter and Fern Alley. Police officers in the area are asking residents and merchants to report any activity to the SFPD. Sidewalk sales are common on this block, and arrests have been made routinely. The crime wave seems contagious, and worsening: just last week an armed robbery was foiled on that corner:

## Attempted armed robbery at coffee shop

October 29, 8:30 a.m. Polk Street between Sutter and Fern Alley.

A man walked into a coffee house at the intersection of Fern Alley and Polk Street and at-

tempted to grab the cash register. The person at the counter slammed the register drawer shut and the suspect started to leave. When a customer approached the suspect, the suspect announced that he had a gun and ran out of the shop toward Sutter Street. Police were called and a report was made. The suspect is described as a white male, six feet in height, weighing about 170 pounds, with heavy facial hair. He was last seen wearing a dirty gray pullover with a hood, which was pulled up at the time of his entry to the shop, with jeans and white sneakers. The owner had not noticed him in the store before that morning.

Officer Sherman Ackerson of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs advises that you do not under any circumstance attempt to take on a suspected armed robber. "Get a description of the person and

where he was headed," he suggests. "Give only the facts. Do not endanger yourself or the people around you."

## Battery on Franklin

October 26, 10:30 p.m. Franklin and Golden Gate. A man was at-

tacked by two men in their late 20s as he was walking home from work. The two men got out of a car and approached the victim with what appeared to be a baseball bat. The man was struck on the head causing a severe laceration. An eyewitness called the police and ambulance. The victim was transported to San Francisco General Hospital accompanied by officers. Suspects are being sought by police.

**AEF jar rip off**  
October 23, 10 p.m. between Post and Sutter. A man who is known to frequent the Polk Street



Keep your eyes on the AEF penny jars.

area walked into a local bookstore and waited until the shopkeeper left the counter area. As the em-

ployee went to the rear of the store, he heard the sound of rattling change. The suspect had taken off with the AIDS Emergency Fund penny jar, which contained about \$200 in bills and change. Merchants are advised to secure AEF jars and monitor the customers. There is a snake loose in the neighborhood.

## Fake money in the Castro

There have been reports of shoppers who have tried to pass off fake \$100 bills in the Castro area. In one case, merchants spotted the fake money when the person tried to buy an item and the culprit was told to leave the store. Officers of the fraud detail of the SFPD and agents of the U.S. Secret Service advise that merchants avoid a confrontation with the person. Instead, get a description of the individual and call the police as soon as possible. If you can keep the person occupied without endangering yourself or your customers, do so and call 911. This is a crime in progress and police will respond. Let's get these people out of the area.

Recently, San Francisco Patrol Special Police officers in the Castro had reports of people attempting to pass off fake \$50 bills.

## Shoplifting incidents increase

As Christmas approaches, there have been a number of shoplifting incidents on Castro Street. Clothing stores are a favorite target. Items such as jeans, shirts, and sunglasses are in great demand at this time of the year. More discriminating shoplifters, apparently, have targeted expensive bottles of wine from the shelves of the wine and cheese import shops in the area. Keep an eye on that video camera and call the police if there is a problem.

## New demands from panhandlers

Panhandlers in the area have taken the new signs which discourage people from giving out loose change quite literally. One man at the corner of Castro and Market streets stated, "I don't want change, I would sooner have drugs."

Other residents in the area have told of incidents where groups of the street people have been aggressive. In the course of conversation with the residents some of these people have also requested drugs. As mentioned in past issues of the B.A.R., not all police officers are in uniform. This may seem cute, but to a plainclothes officer this is another thorn in the side.

## Homeless murder at Women's Building

October 29, 2:34 a.m. 18th and Valencia. The body of Shirley Dilahunty, a 48-year-old homeless woman was found on the ground outside the Women's Building. People in the area knew her as a person who minded her own business and bothered no one. There are no suspects at this time. This case is being investigated by officers in the homicide division. Until next week, be safe. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs, which can be reached at (415) 553-1651. The author can be reached with concerns or column items at (415) 776-9399.

## Propecia™ (Finasteride) Tablets

PROPECIA™ is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

### What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by MEN ONLY and should NOT be used by women or children.

### What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

### Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

### Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

### How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

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### Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

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- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

### A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant – must not use PROPECIA.
- should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

### What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tenderness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

### Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Gay man allegedly attacked by cab driver

by Mark Norby

A gay San Francisco man says his Halloween night was a night of horrors, but not the kind that involves a haunted house or goblins. Instead, he was allegedly subjected to a terrifying anti-gay attack at the hands of a taxi driver.

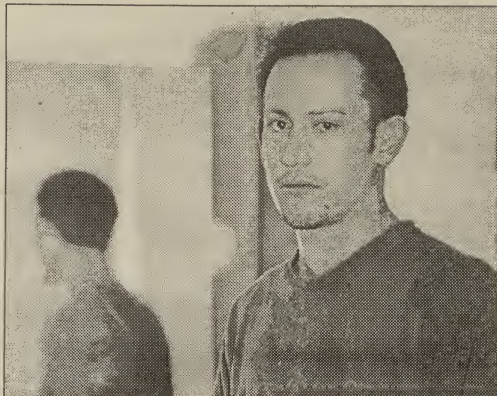
Rick Raymen told the *Bay Area Reporter* that after he finished his shift tending bar on Polk Street at 2:30 a.m., he and a friend grabbed an early morning breakfast at the Grub Steak. Raymen left the cafe approximately 90 minutes later and hailed a cab from the Yellow Cab Company to take him home. When he entered a taxi the meter already registered \$2.70, rather than the standard starting fare of \$1.70, but Raymen didn't say anything about the fare, but told the driver to take him to the corner of 15th Street and Dolores.

As the cab drove down Polk toward Mission Street, the driver told Raymen that Market Street was closed because of the Halloween party. Raymen questioned the driver, saying that "the party in the Castro has been over for hours." The driver responded, "Oh don't worry bro, I'm taking you the back way."

## Fare and foul?

The driver, according to Raymen, drove between different blocks and in the direction of the Fashion Center, then up toward the Potrero District and past the United Parcel Service building. When the taxi finally stopped at the corner of 15th and Dolores, the meter read \$9.80 and the driver asked Raymen for the fare. Referring to the rate of the fare and the excessive time it took to get to his destination, Raymen says he told the driver "that whole thing isn't mine," to which the driver responded, "Do you have a problem with that?" and electronically locked the cab doors.

Raymen told the driver that he would not pay the entire fare, knowing that it usually costs him \$4.50 to get home by cab. He told the driver to let him out of the car and that he was going to report him to Yellow Cab dispatch. The driver then, according to Raymen,



Bashing survivor Richard Raymen

stepped on the gas and said, "I'm gonna take your sissy little ass across town!"

The driver sped up and then stopped at the corner of 14th and Guerrero. Raymen remembers feeling panic and yelled at the driver to stop the car and let him out. Raymen told the B.A.R. the driver got out of the car, opened the back door where he was sitting with his money clenched in his hand, "and he punched me several times in the face, called me a sissy little faggot, knocking my head against the inside of the back of the car. He threatened to kill me."

While being interviewed about the incident on Tuesday evening, November 3, Raymen was visibly shaken. His lip was split, the back of his head was swollen, and his hands and voice shook as he spoke about the driver and that experience. He said that he finally managed to pull away from the driver and he ran toward his house, while the driver yelled "sissy" and "faggot" at him.

Raymen got in touch with the police from a pay phone and shortly thereafter a squad car picked him up. He reported the incident, and the two officers asked if he would be able to identify the driver. Raymen said he could, and they drove to "a gas station near 15th and Folsom, where a lot of cabbies get gas."

Raymen spotted the driver of the Yellow Cab and pointed him

out to the officers. They then approached the driver, Raymen still in the back of the squad car. The driver claimed to have been hit and that Raymen refused to pay the fare. The driver has been identified as Anthony F.G. Quinley. Both Raymen and Quinley filed a violation code 242 PC-battery, citizen's arrest, against each other.

## Getting a lawyer

The next day Raymen visited a doctor friend who told him to see his personal physician. Raymen's physician determined that he is suffering from a concussion, and told him to stay home from work for a week. Raymen has since been trying to contact management at Yellow Cab to follow up on the incident.

"They won't talk to me," he told the B.A.R.. "The management said they 'have heard about the case but will not comment about it.' I have called several times but they won't help me report the driver."

"I'm giving up on them and I'm getting a lawyer. That driver needs to have his license taken away."

The cab number on the police report was Yellow Cab #656. Raymen asked that the bar where he works not be identified for fear of Yellow Cab Co. "blacklisting" the bar and the staff and patrons who frequent it. ▼

## Halloween

◀ page 1

Surprisingly, Friday night was much calmer than expected, and Castro Street was only closed for two hours.

"It was still a little much," said Patrick Batt, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, of the crowd in the Castro on Saturday although he acknowledged there was less trouble than he anticipated.

"I think there was way too many people for the geographic region of the Castro," said Jane Warner, San Francisco Patrol Special Police officer for that neighborhood who was on duty on Halloween.

Overall there were limited arrests in the Castro according to Captain Greg Suhr of the SFPD Mission Station.

"The lion's share of the arrests in and around the Castro were for public drunkenness," said Suhr

adding there were a couple of minor batteries that night.

"The alcohol consumption was incredible. I believe it was as orderly as a crowd with that much alcohol on board [could be]," he continued.

The most serious incident was a hit-and-run at Market and Duboce streets at approximately 2 a.m. A blue Suzuki Samurai jeep struck a couple visiting from out of state, killing a woman and seriously injuring her husband; police are still searching for the driver of the vehicle.

Warner reports that police had some difficulty getting an ambulance to the scene of the accident due to the number of people in the area; that difficulty illustrates a greater concern regarding the effect of the density of the crowd on effectively meeting security needs should there be a major incident.

## Uncivil Civic Center

Halloween San Francisco '98, the "official" celebration at the

Civic Center, welcomed an estimated 60,000 people rather than the 90,000 expected before the event, but not without some problems.

Patricia Aguayo, executive director of Mission Economic Cultural Association, organizer of the event, emphasized that overall the event was successful and fun for all, but she bemoaned the violence that occurred and believes it was committed by teenagers, many from out of town; a security guard was stabbed in the back among other violence, including other minor stab wounds.

Aguayo is considering restricting the event to people 21 years old and over, but she acknowledged that planning and community meetings would be required to make sure teenagers restricted from the Civic Center event didn't simply wander into the Castro.

Although Halloween falls on a Sunday next year, those involved with the activities this year anticipate similar concerns for 1999. ▼

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# AIDS Grove says no to \$5K from United

by Cynthia Laird

The National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park has become the second group locally to say "no thanks" to United Airlines. The Memorial Grove on October 13, turned down a \$5,000 in-kind sponsorship from United Airlines, citing the commercial airline's refusal to implement the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance.

The law requires companies doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to spouses. United filed suit against the city in 1997; in April, U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken upheld most of the city's law. While she did rule the airlines do not have to offer health and pension benefits, her decision stated that airlines have to offer other benefits, such as bereavement leave and travel.

United continues to fight offering any benefits to domestic partners of its employees, and the matter is still being determined in court; the next hearing is scheduled for January.

Thom Weyand, executive director of the Memorial Grove, issued a brief letter last month to United's Vivian Chu and Natalie

Kokone, in which he said the airline's fight against the city was the reason for returning the donation, which consisted of \$5,000 worth of tickets, Weyand said.

"Our decision to reject this offer was made after reviewing the continuing issues around United Airlines' policies and attitudes toward domestic partner benefits," Weyand stated. "We learned that United Airlines' lack of sensitivity on benefits especially with respect to bereavement issues is particularly onerous."

Jeff Sheehy, of Equal Benefits Advocates, hailed the Memorial Grove's decision. "I think it's significant that the Memorial Grove has recognized the hate alliance of Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) and United in seeking to deny lesbian and gay employees basic benefits such as bereavement leave, family medical leave, and travel," Sheehy told the *Bay Area Reporter*. The ACLJ has signed on to United's suit.

## United's 'minimizing loss'

The memorial grove was conceived in 1989 and launched in 1991 by a small group of people who had lost loved ones to AIDS. Located in the eastern end of Golden Gate Park, the grove is a 15-acre wooded site historically known as de Laveaga Dell. Since

1991, hundreds of volunteers have gathered at monthly Saturday "workdays." Not only family and friends, but youth groups, seniors, and corporate executives come to workdays to heal while clearing weeds, mulching, and planting with others who share their experience. Through cycles of life and death illustrated in nature, the grove helps soothe friends, families, and even those who are ill.

The grove is also home of the Circle of Friends, a program to inscribe and remember the names of those who have died and those who have shared their struggle, kept the vigils, and supported each other during the final hours.

In his letter to United, Weyand said the fact that United does not even offer bereavement leave to domestic partners of employees was a major factor in the nonprofit's decision to reject the gift. "Since bereavement and grief processing are areas of focus for the National AIDS Memorial Grove, it would be hypocritical of us to accept a gift/sponsorship from an agency that minimizes human loss and suffering among loving unmarried partners," he wrote.

Weyand told the B.A.R. he has not heard from United since he sent the memo last month. The decision was made, he said, in consultation with some executive committee members of the Memorial Grove's board of directors. He also said he hopes there's a time when the grove can work with United. "I have a good history with United, but it's not acceptable with what's going on," he said. Weyand added that the Memorial Grove's annual budget is around \$350,000 and that it was the first time United had approached the organization with the offer of an in-kind donation.



United unwelcome: volunteers for the AIDS Memorial Grove don't want the airline's money.

He added that it was not an easy decision for the board's committee to make. "It's always a difficult decision [to turn down money]."

The National AIDS Memorial Grove will be having an event at the grove on World AIDS Day, Tuesday, December 1, Weyand said.

In July 1997, the San Francisco-based Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) stopped recognizing United as its "official" airline, thereby foregoing thousands of dollars worth of vouchers and tickets, said Sue Rochman, communications director for that nonprofit organization that has 2,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender physicians, medical students, and supporters among its membership.

GLMA also withdrew from consideration a pending application for a \$10,000 United travel grant. ▼

For more information about the National AIDS Memorial Grove, call (415) 750-8340.

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## Lambda United

◀ page 1

nity. "None of them [airlines] wants to go first [and offer benefits to domestic partners], which is why the case is focused on getting all to do it."

"I do think the issue has progressed and both sides have become more vehement. I'm shocked by the aggressiveness of United. Sometimes that happens in litigation," continued Pizer. "It's been thrilling to see that on the part of the city, straight lawyers in this critical fight for justice. Similarly, lawyers on the other side have become more impassioned."

United's lead attorney, Brendan Dolan from Brobeck, recently argued in federal court that to comply with the provisions of Wilken's April decision would cost the airline approximately \$443,000 to reprogram computers to calculate benefits such as bereavement leave and travel. At the same hearing last month, Brobeck attorneys agreed to have the Pat Robertson-backed American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) suit heard with theirs at the next hearing. The attorneys did not object to having the two cases related at an earlier hearing.

Pizer pointed out that no airline offers benefits to domestic partners, but acknowledged, when pressed, that United is fighting the city because of a contract for space at San Francisco International Airport. Other airlines, with the exception of Federal Express, a cargo company, have not filed suit against the city, other than through their affiliation with the ATA. It's widely believed that United was the driving force behind that original lawsuit.

"Politically, things are always more complicated," Pizer said of the apparent inconsistency surrounding Lambda and United. "If people feel that airlines as a whole are attacking the community, and no one should travel until the airlines stop discriminating, that will mean [Lambda] lawyers won't be able to go to court to argue cases and meet

three times a year face to face [with other Lambda attorneys]."

Pizer said she doesn't agree with the position of lawyers at Brobeck. "I've had a number of conversations with George [Tuttle]. He and I take different views on the legal question," Pizer said, referring to the Brobeck partner organizing the Lambda luncheon.

## Reaction

San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz, who co-authored the city's law, was surprised regarding the upcoming luncheon. "It's outrageous," Katz told the B.A.R. "I thought it was bad enough when they had Brobeck pens at the Lambda dinner. I'm very surprised."

Kate Kendell, executive director with the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) was more diplomatic. NCLR joined Lambda in filing the amicus brief in favor of the city in 1997.

"At first blush I think it's fair to ask the question why a gay legal organization would choose to have a reception at the offices of a firm representing another corporation taking what we view as an anti-gay position," Kendell told the B.A.R. "However, I really believe one of the most effective ways to make change is from the inside out. Brobeck is a huge firm and it's not surprising they have a huge client, United."

Geoff Kors, a civil rights attorney who also worked on the city's law, echoed Katz's feelings. "I'm disappointed," he said of Lambda. Kors said that Brobeck, which has probably earned a good deal of money from United, can host the luncheon for Lambda and "then sell themselves to law students as gay friendly."

"I think when groups do that it's hypocritical," added Kors.

Kendell, who was preparing a final for students in a legal ethics course she's teaching at New College, said she doesn't see an ethical violation of Lambda's hosting the luncheon at Brobeck's offices. "Lawyers fight to the death in court and then go have drinks in the afternoon," she said. ▼

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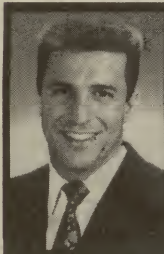
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# Air Force employees find protection from discrimination

by Shan Schwartz

As an Air Force architect since 1980, Stephen Bickford says he goes to work behind enemy lines day after day.

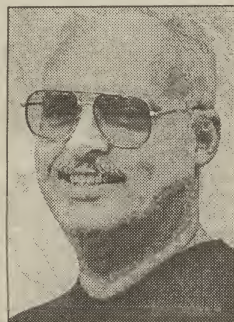
He hasn't seen any military combat, but as a gay military employee, he says his work environment has often been less than friendly.

The military's policy toward gay servicemen has received plenty of publicity in recent years, but the policy toward civilian employees hasn't been in the spotlight. Bickford, however, has spent years investigating the policy and getting pressure applied to make the policy known.

As founder and current president of Air Force GLOBE (Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Employees), Bickford now knows the policy well. Although it was a long struggle to get the policy revealed, Bickford's efforts paid off with a gay-friendly policy now being shared with all civilian Air Force personnel.

Air Force GLOBE was organized after Bickford turned to a larger organization, Federal GLOBE, to find out what discrimination protection, if any, was provided to gay civilian Air Force employees.

"My interest in Federal GLOBE was to find out my protections, because the Air Force wasn't telling me anything," Bickford told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I never got the balls to go ask them, and I didn't know who to turn to



Air Force GLOBE President  
Stephan Bickford

to ask." At that time, Bickford said, apparently no civilian Air Force employee had yet tried to clarify the Air Force's civilian employment discrimination policy in regards to protection based on sexual orientation.

From Federal GLOBE, Bickford said he learned of the 1979 Civil Service Reform Act, which prohibited discrimination based on any "non-merit reason." That alone, Bickford guessed, might provide the necessary protection he was looking to confirm.

"But nobody had ever told me about that law," Bickford said. "I looked all over the place [for a non-discrimination policy], and I finally found one poster that mentioned they wouldn't discriminate for any non-merit reason."

So Bickford embarked on what

would become a multi-year quest to discover and clarify the Air Force's non-discrimination policy in regards to sexual orientation.

## Purloined letter

It took letters back and forth with several congressmen, including Ohio Senator John Glenn and Massachusetts Representative Barney Frank, and a high-profile story in the *Washington Blade* criticizing the Air Force's "refusal" to change its policy, until November 1997 when a copy of a revised Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policy mysteriously appeared one night under the door of the *Blade's* office. The policy had been changed by Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall, who had just left office in late October 1997.

But the quest wasn't over. Although this letter had been signed October 29, it didn't seem to appear at Bickford's Air Force base. An "EEO Policy Letter Update" was distributed by the base's general in mid-November, but it didn't specifically mention sexual orientation. Bickford asked around the base and felt like he was getting the runaround.

"I started asking why sexual orientation wasn't included," Bickford said. "First they said they hadn't got the letter. Then they said they got it, but they sent it to the legal office. Then the legal office said they were asking the Air Force how to implement it."

"Come January, I was pissed that we still hadn't seen the new

page 27 ►

# GLOBE welcomes older gay men to brunch Sunday

by Timothy Rodrigues

Older gay men will have a chance to share brunch and conversation at the second Sunday Men's Potluck on November 8 at noon in San Francisco.

A monthly event, these brunches are one of the more successful social activities of Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOBE), a 16-year-old program now with New Leaf Services for Our Community.

"There's a lot of yacking, clacking, and talking," said George Roosen, men's coordinator for GLOBE. "Some very, very fine friendships have built up around it."

The potluck brunch draws between 30-70 older gay men (the average age is over 60) and offers an opportunity to gather in an informal setting including a garden area.

Over the years, attendees have developed a "friendship list" of men who keep in contact for social activities, and brunch attendees are free to add their name.

Roosen is most impressed with the personal connections the men make at the brunches. Roosen



Gay seniors at a recent GLOBE meeting

told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the closeness evokes an earlier period when gay men used to live in secret, but had very rich social networks including dinner parties several times a week at the homes of friends.

For many the secrecy continues. "Most seniors are still closeted except with other gay men," said Roosen, who added that he is 75 years old, very single, and available.

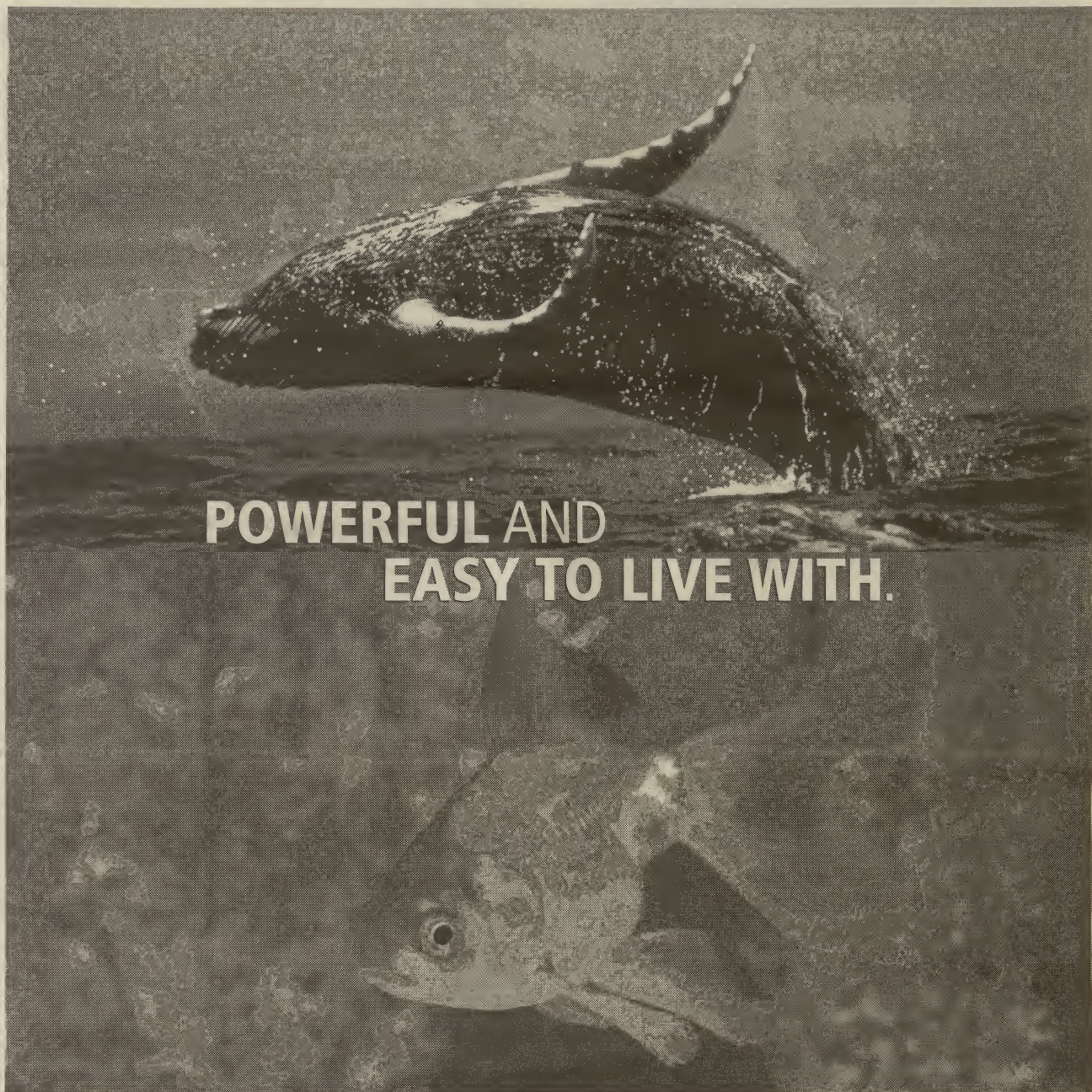
This month, in honor of Veter-

an's Day, men will be encouraged to share their wartime stories at brunch and are encouraged to bring their uniforms, photos, and memorabilia. ▼

The brunch will be held at Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero Street in San Francisco; attendees should bring a dish or beverage to share. For more information on GLOBE call (415) 255-2937.



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clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related

medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the

onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call

toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.agouron.com](http://www.agouron.com).

(Refer to the important information on the next page.)

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**Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)**  
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**For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection**

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

**VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs** such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

**Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT.** You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

#### Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute® Cardioquin® Quinidex® and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
- This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

#### Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

- Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

#### A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
  - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

**Nucleoside analogues:** No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Efavir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

**If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:** Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

- When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
  - Viramune® (nevirapine)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs
- VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)
- The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

#### Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

#### Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

### Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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# Horizons grants its one millionth LGBT dollar

by Cynthia Laird

The Horizons Foundation has announced that it donated its one millionth dollar this year to Bay Area lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) organizations. More than 200 people gathered to honor the foundation, which is the nation's oldest community-based, grant-making group serving the LGBT community, at an annual "Pathways" reception in September, said Scott Hafner, president of the Horizons.

"What impressed me most about the event was the gay and lesbian community's willingness to financially support the Horizons Foundation, so that we may continue to provide grants to organizations who serve our community," said Hafner.

This year, Horizons grants were awarded to the Billy De-

Frank Lesbian and Gay Community Center in San Jose, Ellipse Peninsula AIDS Services, the Harvey Milk Institute, and the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC).

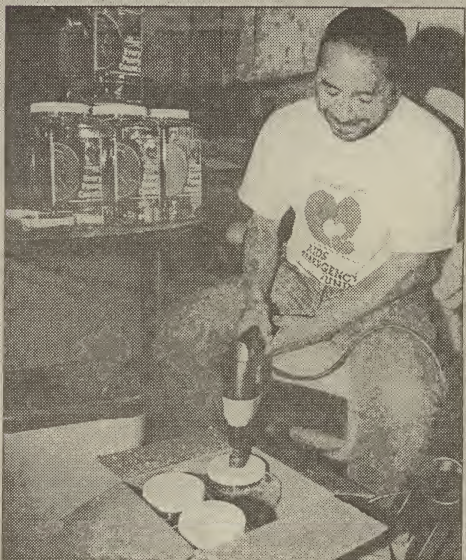
Additionally, the Horizons Foundation announced the donation of computer equipment to 14 Bay Area LGBT groups: ACT UP/Golden Gate, All Our Families Coalition, Asian Pacific Lesbian Bisexual Network (APLBN), Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE), Ellas En Accion, FTM International, the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, the Harvey Milk Institute, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, Lesbians in the Visual Arts, Purple Moon Dance Project, Q-Spirit, QCC-The Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Art and Culture, and the San Francisco Band Foundation/Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts. The computer

equipment was made possible by a \$30,000 grant from Pacific Bell and is part of an ongoing partnership between the communications company, Horizons Foundation, and Digital Queers.

Also recognized were this year's grant recipients of "A Fund of Our Own," a philanthropic program established in 1989 by Bay Area Career Women to support lesbian programs in the areas of art, culture, health, legal rights, human services, and education. They include: the Asian Women's Shelter, Capacity to Enter, Lesbian Women of Courage, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, Lesbians in the Visual Arts, Moon Sisters Drum Camp/Mother River Spirit, the Women's Philharmonic, Theatre Rhinoceros, Voices, WOMAN, Inc, and the Women's Cancer Resource Center.

Currently, Horizons is completing the last grant of its 1998 cycle for the queer youths and elders donors circle. This new initiative has enabled donors to pool their donations in order to support programs that benefit gay and lesbian youths and elders. Specific grants are expected to be announced later this month. ▼

## Toss pennies here



AIDS Emergency Fund volunteer Unicorn Escobedo reads penny jars for AEF's Every Penny Counts campaign, which started October 28 and culminates in December with the counting of the coins. Look for jars at businesses throughout San Francisco and the East Bay.

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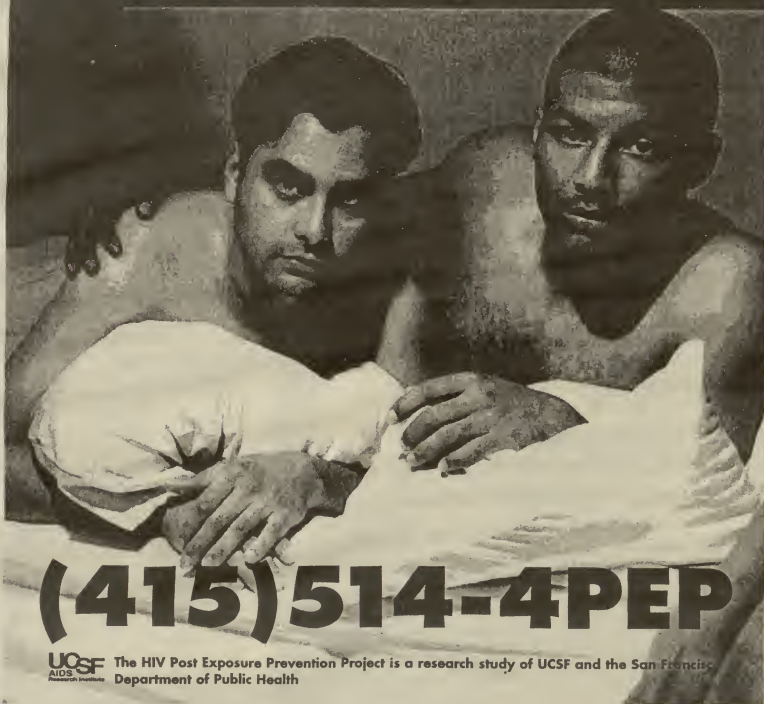
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ENDOSCOPIC & LASER TREATMENTS AVAILABLE

## Florida pickets zap hatemonger Gary Bauer

# Fundy blamed for fatal hate crime against gay

by Jack Nichols

In the wake of another hate killing, a small group of eight pickets, including this reporter, demonstrated after dark outside the Melbourne, Florida Airport Hilton on Tuesday, October 27. Inside, from 6-7:15 p.m., Family Research Council Director Gary Bauer addressed a banquet gathering of his political klanpeople.

News media had announced earlier in the day that Orlando resident Sabastian Durgins, 26, had been found dead of gunshot wounds to the head, his body left near train tracks and the Sanford Garden Apartment complex in Sanford, Florida.

Two boys walking near the tracks had discovered the body. Police told reporters that the victim had not been robbed. He was, said the *Orlando Sentinel*, a hairdresser. Later, immediately following the anti-Bauer picket, television news stations were calling the Durgins murder "another anti-gay hate crime."

The pickets, who laid blame for the hostile climate favoring such murders at the feet of Bauer, initially made their views known on local radio stations and in a major Florida newspaper. Pickets represented Miami Beach's Oral

Majority, The Space Coast Lesbian and Gay Alliance, and employees of the Aware Woman Center for Choice.

Democratic candidate for Congress David Golding stepped from his automobile and remained with the pickets until they disbursed. "I share your views," he said, "about the danger that Gary Bauer poses, and that's why I'm here to give you my wholehearted support."

Pickets booed incumbent Republican Congressman Dave Weldon, who was running against Golding, as Weldon drove past.

### Christian Reich

Signs confronting Bauer's contingent included photographs of the GOP hate candidate that said: "Bauer's Bigotry is to Blame" and "Gary Bauer - 'Murderer' by Proxy." Another sign said: "Stop the Christian Reich's Sexual Witchhunt," and included a swastika and the words "No More Nazism." Signs with photographs of both Matthew Shepard and Dr. Barnett Slepian (who was murdered by an anti-abortionist during the weekend in Amherst, New York) said: "Jesus Would Weep," "Remember Matthew," and "Remember Dr. Slepian."

Bauer supporters, entering Hilton grounds were, prior to the banquet, forced to digest the messages held in their faces by the pickets. Several of them gave

pickets the finger, and police gathered nearby with Bauer security forces to monitor the small enthusiastic group who were not allowed on Hilton property.

Television news ignored the pickets, engaged as they were with nearby festivities surrounding the forthcoming flight into space of Senator John Glenn, 77, and the crew of the Discovery shuttle. "They were more concerned with outer space," said Oral Majority's Bob Kunst, "than with the horrors going on here on earth."

"We only get the press, it seems, when we're mourning our dead," Kunst continued, "but they don't want to hear from us when we stand up to Republican bigots who always get the opportunities they want to attack us."

Florida candidate for governor, Jeb Bush, a son of former President Bush, and a darling of the right wing, was represented by a plethora of bumper stickers attached to incoming autos and, reportedly, by his press manager.

Bauer, who has plans to run on the Republican ticket for the Presidency in 2000, had hoped to exploit the Hilton banquet to advance his anti-gay, anti-free choice agendas. In building his political base in Florida, the last place he expected to be exposed as a menace was in this conservative Republican bastion. ▼

Courtesy www.badpuppy.com

### Queer Science

◀ page 11

ment, or non-exclusive by agreement or by deceit. If the partnership is non-reproductive, one might imagine that the pressure for sexual exclusivity would vanish, but often it doesn't. Presumably the desire for exclusivity among gays is either a hangover from our heterosexual evolutionary origins, or a practical issue connected with fear of desertion or disease.

I don't think it's demeaning to gay men to acknowledge that tensions and conflicts do arise around issues of monogamy. Scientifically, these conflicts are just

the consequence of evolutionary trends. But to solve them may require re-establishing a moral sense—not the imposition of outmoded heterosexual standards but the development of a code that is relevant to our own circumstances. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well known for his research on the "gay brain." He is author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Jonas), *Queer Science*, and the novel *Albrick's Gold*. He may be reached at [SLeVay@aol.com](mailto:SLeVay@aol.com). For more Queer Science, visit [www.gay.net](http://www.gay.net) or <http://members.aol.com/slevay>.

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# Baldwin wins, gay marriage loses

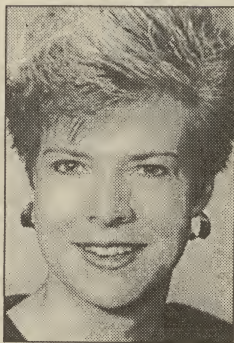
by Bob Roehr

For the first time in America, an openly lesbian candidate has been elected to federal office. Tammy Baldwin will represent a district centered on Madison, Wisconsin in the U.S. House of Representatives. Previous openly gay members of Congress were first elected while in the closet and then re-elected once they came out.

Baldwin, 36, paid her political dues, being first elected to local office and in 1992 to the state Legislature. She won a four-way Democratic primary and then faced a tough opponent in a moderate Republican woman. Sexual orientation was not an issue during the campaign.

Turnout in her home base of Madison was so great that some polling places ran out of ballots. Additional ones were brought in and some polling places stayed open an hour past their scheduled closing to accommodate the crowd. Baldwin amassed an impressive 53 to 47 percent margin to win the open seat. She becomes the first woman sent to Congress from Wisconsin, and the first open lesbian in that body.

Baldwin "has broken down a very large door," said Elizabeth Birch executive director of the



Tammy Baldwin

Human Rights Campaign (HRC). "She has created an arch of hope that future gay and lesbian candidates will be able to walk through."

The other lesbian candidates for Congress ran very credible but losing efforts. San Diego city council member Christine Kehoe pulled 46 percent of the vote to gay-friendly Republican incumbent Brian Bilbray's 49 percent. Third party candidates garnered the other votes.

In Washington state, retired colonel Grethe Cammermeyer lost to conservative incumbent Jack Metcalf by 45 to 55 percent.

Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank was unopposed in his re-election bid, while Arizona Republican Jim Kolbe faced his toughest fight in years. He pulled 52 percent of the vote while his Democratic opponent got 45 percent, with the balance going to third party candidates.

## Marriage loses

Gay marriage continues to be a hot button issue. Voters in Hawaii and Alaska said "no" to the idea by margins greater than 2 to 1. The Hawaii vote gives the state Legislature permission to amend the state constitution to define marriage as only between a man and a woman, not people of the same gender.

That no doubt will have a chilling effect upon the pending state Supreme Court decision on gay marriage. Most observers believe the court will find that the present state constitution allows same-sex marriage. But that decision now is likely to continue to be held up until the Legislature resolves the issue.

The electoral setbacks "do not stop our march to equality," said Evan Wolfson, director of the Marriage Project at the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. He said that gay rights advocates would use the legislative hearings to continue to make the

case for gay marriage.

Four states passed initiatives in the growing movement in support of medical use of marijuana, most by margins approaching 60 percent of the vote. That seems to indicate a growing rejection of the simplistic "just say no" approach to currently illegal drugs. It may also point to a smaller less intrusive role for government in our daily lives.

## Congress

The deck was reshuffled in Congress, but essentially remains the same. Republicans maintained their 55 to 45 edge in the Senate. One of the more gay-friendly Republicans, the controversial New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato, lost his race despite getting an endorsement from HRC. But the victor, Representative Charles Schumer, is at least as good a friend of the gay community.

Jesse Helms's North Carolina colleague, the arch-conservative Lauch Faircloth, was soundly defeated. Also, darlings of the Christian right who tried to move up from the House to the Senate all met with failure: Bob Inglis in South Carolina, Mark Neumann in Wisconsin, and Linda Smith in Washington state.

Incumbents did well in the

House, but expected Republican gains never materialized, instead they have lost a handful of seats and slid even closer to numeric parity with the Democrats.

And ideologically the shift may be even greater, with notable Republican losses from their extreme wing. In addition to the far right firebrands who tried for the Senate but lost, Kansas incumbent Vince Snowbarger was defeated. Ditto for what the Christian Coalition hoped would be the next wave of Congressman, led by Gex "Jay" Williams trying for an open seat in Kentucky.

The only governors to go down to defeat were poster children of the religious right, and in their stronghold of the Deep South. South Carolinian David Beasley lost. Fob James, the governor of Alabama who championed religion in government, was routed 42 to 58 percent.

And in the most entertaining race, retired pro wrestler Jesse "The Body" Ventura upset the Republican mayor of Minneapolis and Democratic scion Hubert Humphrey III to become governor of Minnesota. Election of the libertarian tinged Reform Party candidate sent a message to both parties that old-fashioned politics will not suffice. ▼



Supervisor Tom Ammiano (right) shares the good news of his victory with supporters.

## Cal. elections

◀ page 1

who will replace Fong as treasurer, and incumbent state Controller Kathleen Connell. Incumbent GOP state Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush rebuffed Democratic challenger Diane Martinez to become the only Republican winner at press time. The race for secretary of state between incumbent Bill Jones and Democratic challenger Michela Alioto was neck-and-neck and will not be determined until final votes are counted.

In the bitter contest for the "non-partisan" superintendent of public instruction, Democratic incumbent Delaine Eastin turned back a well-financed challenge by Gloria Tuchman, a conservative Republican.

On California propositions, 1A (school bonds), 1 (property taxes), 2 (transportation funding), 4 (ban animal traps), 5 (tribal casinos), 6 (slaughter of horses for meat), and 11 (local taxes) all appeared headed for wins. Propositions 7 (tax credits), 8 (public

schools), and 9 (electric deregulation) went down to defeat. Proposition 10, the cigarette tax for childhood development, was too close to call and will be determined by absentee ballots.

In other state congressional contests, former Representative Bob Dornan, one of the GOP's most homophobic members, was defeated in a comeback attempt in Orange County; Democrat Loretta Sanchez won in the costly campaign 57 to 39 percent. In another race that drew interest, San Diego councilwoman Christine Kehoe, a lesbian, lost a tight race to her Republican opponent. In the Bay Area's only closely contested House race, Walnut Creek Democrat Ellen Tauscher handily defeated her GOP opponent Charles Ball.

Santa Clara County elected its first woman sheriff, Laurie Smith. In San Jose, voters elected former county supervisor Ron Gonzales, a Democrat, as mayor of the Bay Area's largest city, over Republican city Councilwoman Pat Dando.

In San Francisco, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and state Assemblymembers Carole Migden

and Kevin Shelley all won easily. Democrat Jackie Speier won an open state senate seat.

In the race for three seats on the San Francisco City College board, incumbent Lawrence Wong, an openly gay man, was leading all others. Andrea Shorter, an open lesbian appointed by Mayor Willie Brown, was fighting to hold her seat, with absentee ballots likely to be the determining factor.

Among San Francisco ballot measures, Proposition G (owner move-in evictions) won big and voters appeared to reverse their decision of a year ago to rebuild the Central Freeway; Proposition E was narrowly leading at press time.

In the East Bay, openly gay Berkeley city Councilmember Kriss Worthington coasted to victory over his opponents, one of which was another gay man, George Beier. In the race for a seat on the AC Transit bus board, openly gay candidate Allan Shore lost big to incumbent Alice Creason. Also, in Oakland, Mayor-elect Jerry Brown's proposal to give the mayor's office more power was a big winner Tuesday night. ▼

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# Orchid Society continues to flower with gay talent

by Timothy Rodrigues

The openly gay president of the Orchid Society of California, located in Oakland, considers the group's flower show this weekend an opportunity to show off the diversity of the much-beloved plant – and the somewhat less well known organization.

The free event at the Lakeside Garden Center in Oakland on Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8, will be an occasion to view flowers grown by members, as well as displays by 11 commercial vendors. Orchid lovers will have an opportunity to purchase plants or win them as prizes in a raffle.

Joe Ware, an African-American man and president of the society, understands that people may have an impression that the club caters to an "elitist, upper income, Caucasian group," but he emphasized that the membership is more diverse.

"We are building diversity because we reach out to every ethnic group and lifestyle," Ware told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We welcome all people to our society; it is great fun and a wonderful opportunity

to learn more."

Ware, owner of the Bates House bed and breakfast in Oakland, became interested in orchids when he purchased and began renovating that building a few years ago. A friend noticed he was growing some orchid plants, transplanted from the backyard, in incorrect conditions and referred him to the society.

In addition to being fun, Ware mentioned that the hobby is becoming much more affordable than people might think.

"It is actually cheaper than going out and purchasing other plants," he said, and added that – contrary to the common stereotype – most people in the Orchid Society do not use greenhouses to grow their plants.

Ware encouraged those with any level of interest in learning

more about the orchid to attend the flower show this weekend.

"The draw and appeal is just the beauty and diversity of the plants," he said.

The Orchid Society of California is the oldest such society west of the Mississippi. ▽

The flower show will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, at Lakeside Park in Oakland; the Orchid Society of California meets the third Monday evening of each month also at the Lakeside Garden Center, call Gil Rodriguez at (510) 538-8632 for more information, or write to the Orchid Society at 360 Grand Avenue, Box 129, Oakland CA 94610.

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Joseph Ware and orchids

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# FDA panel recommends Ziagen approval

by Bob Roehr

Suppose they approved a new AIDS drug — and nobody cared. That was pretty much the situation when an advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended approval of abacavir sulfate, known both by the acronym ABC and the trade name Ziagen. The meeting took place in Gaithersburg, Maryland, outside of Washington, on Monday, November 2.

Ziagen, a nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI) manufactured by Glaxo-Wellcome, was developed under the shorthand code 1592 and initially showed great promise as a more potent follow-on drug for AZT. It works at the same point to disrupt HIV's reproduction cycle as does that workhorse pharmaceutical. But it is more powerful, has a different mutation resistance profile, is easier to use, and for some people has fewer, milder side effects.

Glaxo chose to shape its principal adult trial of 562 treatment-naïve patients around the combination of ABC + AZT + 3TC, all products manufactured by that company. It compared the regimen with the later two drugs in combination with the protease inhibitor indinavir (trade name Crixivan) "to demonstrate equivalency," said Glaxo product development leader Stephen LaFon.

The 48-week trial is double blinded, with a placebo substituted for the opposite drug in each arm. Thus, all participants must follow the food and dosing schedule for Crixivan whether they are on that drug or Ziagen plus the placebo substituting for Crixivan.

LaFon presented "preliminary analysis of select efficacy data" where 95 percent of the patients had received 16 weeks of therapy and 85 had received 24 weeks of treatment. Because the trial is ongoing, it remains blinded. He said that they saw "no significant differences" in the two arms of the trial in terms of suppressed viral load, increases of CD4 counts, and dropout rates.

Drug-experienced patients are another story. "Patients who have been on more than 12 months of 3TC and zidovudine [AZT] had only a modest or no response at all," LaFon admitted under questioning from the advisory committee. He said these results came from other trials.

It appears that no single mutation causes resistance to ABC, but a combination of three or four particular mutations does lead to that resistance. Other drugs in the nucleoside class share some of the same mutation points. That has led many to question the wisdom of a combination therapy regimen built upon only one class of antiretroviral drugs.

Committee member Dr. John Hamilton, a professor of medicine at the Duke University Medical Center, said he "would be reluctant" to use a three-nucleoside regimen. "But I guess it should be an option."

Dr. Michael Elashoff, is the FDA statistician who evaluated the abacavir submission. In the principal trial he found equivalency in suppression of viral load but "the CD4 responses looked better on the control arm" at every point.

Acting chairman Dr. Henry Masur, from the National Institutes of Health, expressed "concern about the dichotomy be-

tween the immunologic response and the virologic response."

Elashoff feared that the dropout rate of 24 percent at week 16, if it continues to grow throughout the entire 48 weeks of the trial, might affect the quality and usefulness of the data.

## Hypersensitivity = death

Approximately 3 percent of the 11,000 people in the safety database have experienced hypersensitivity to Ziagen. It is a constellation that may include rash, fever, fatigue, nausea, and other symptoms. "All will resolve within days of discontinuing abacavir," said Glaxo presenter Dr. Seth Hetherington.

"Restarting abacavir after stopping for a hypersensitivity reaction may lead to more severe and potentially life-threatening events, including death," he said. At least one death has been attributed to this reaction. Other deaths while on the drug have been attributed to other causes associated with advanced HIV disease and heavy use of other medications, according to Glaxo's analysis. The com-

pany plans an extensive education campaign to the risks and symptoms of hypersensitivity.

Advisory committee member Dr. Christopher Mathews, director of the AIDS Clinic at the University of California at San Diego, worries that "small volume [medical] providers won't necessarily have the skills and medical judgment" to catch these problems. He

tee as a patient advocate. The company "may have short-changed itself" by not studying abacavir in combination with ddI and ddT, he said. He believes that the FDA "may be doing patients a disservice" by giving approval without that information, because use of any therapy affects the use of every subsequent therapy.

also feared that Glaxo is going to price the drug "the same a protease inhibitors."

North Carolina PWA Jerald Breitman praised Ziagen which "has indeed given me back my life." New York activist Jules Levin said, "People need this option."

But Spencer Cox, with New York's Treatment Action Group (TAG), wasn't so sure. "The available data suggests that the choice between Ziagen rather than other marketed therapies is a choice between a blue pill and a red pill." He compared it with the recently approved Sustiva, "which is easier to take, better tolerated, and doesn't have a potentially life-threatening side effect."

Cox believes that for the first time there really is competition in the market of HIV therapies. He suggested, "One way that Glaxo-Wellcome can distinguish Ziagen would be to price it remarkably lower than any available double nucleoside combination. Which would mean less than \$3,000 a year." He is not holding his breath for that to happen. ▼

**...Trials with Glaxo drugs were convenient, but they haven't looked at the real world use of the drug.**

also is concerned that the common nature of the symptoms of hypersensitivity, which can be caused by any number of things, may lead to "premature discontinuation" of the drug. That holds the potential for stimulating resistance mutations.

## Community voices

Jeff Bloom sat on the commit-

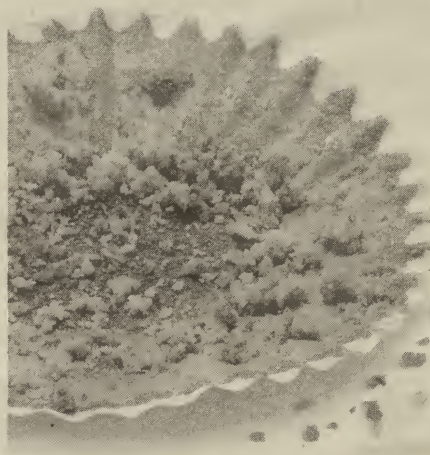
Mike Donnelly with ACT UP/Golden Gate was "pretty disappointed" that there was no real data on durability of effect. The trials with other Glaxo drugs were "convenient," he said, but "they haven't looked at the real world use of the drug." While he supported the eventual approval of the drug, he "wasn't sure there is data for accelerated approval." He

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# DuPont partially meets ACT UP members' demands after zap

by Mark Norby

Continuing its efforts to stop AIDS profiteering by the major pharmaceutical companies, five members of ACT UP/New York took over the Manhattan office of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company for two and a half hours on Monday, October 26. The action was spurred in response to DuPont's pricing of Sustiva, a new NNRTI (non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor) AIDS drug that would be for most AIDS patients a supplement to existing drug regimens and essential medications in the treatment of the disease.

Mark Milano of ACT UP/New York organized the protest claim-

ing that "DuPont has blatantly lied to both us and the press regarding the price of Sustiva." The price of the drug is nearly \$2,000 more per year than other drugs in its class.

The issue of pricing is especially important to people living with AIDS (PWAs) and the state-

ment as its soon-to-be-approved AIDS drug Ziagen reaches the market. Most of the drugs are priced at a cost of around \$3,100 annually and have financially tapped ADAPs which distribute the funds available to PWAs. Sustiva would cost ADAPs around

## DuPont has blatantly lied to both us and the press...

run AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) as pharmaceutical companies raise prices of their AIDS drugs. Agouron Pharma recently raised the price of Viracept by almost 5 percent, and Glaxo-Wellcome has threatened similar

\$5,000 annually. Directors at ADAPs have made it clear that if this type of pricing continues the threat of running out of funds is imminent.

ACT UP/New York made its demands known by hanging a banner from DuPont's Manhattan office windows reading "DuPont Pharma: Greed=Death," and insisting on a price reduction on Sustiva. DuPont immediately sent home 40 of its employees, and company management made it clear to the five ACT UP members that arrests would be avoided. Milano said that "arrests would alert the press to the problem, and that's what we need in this matter. DuPont made it known that they didn't want arrests. They don't want the press and people to know about this."

In response company officials at DuPont arranged a conference call with Senior Vice-president of Public Policy Bob Perkins. ACT UP's own press release on the protest states that "during the conference call [Perkins] caved in to the activist demand that Nicholas Teti, the president of DuPont Pharma, meet with the directors of the state-run ADAP," further insisting for significantly larger rebates for Sustiva. DuPont has marketed the drug as an alternative to protease inhibitors (PIs) and claimed that Sustiva is priced below PIs and is therefore a cost-saving drug. However, users of Sustiva will add the drug to existing drug regimens that include a PI. This means a typical regimen of four to five drugs daily with Sustiva as an addition to such regimens.

"Adding overpriced drugs like Sustiva will force some states to drop other essential medications or to end new enrollments entirely," stated John Riley, also of ACT UP/New York. Due to the excessive price, four states including New York, California, Pennsylvania and Texas are unable to add the drug to their ADAP formulas. ACT UP/New York members finally left the offices of DuPont when an agreement was made between ADAP directors and Perkins of DuPont to meet to discuss establishing a lower price and a larger rebate on Sustiva. When reached for a follow-up comment on the agreement for a meeting, Milano admitted that "we are afraid that DuPont won't live up to its promise. There is no date set yet for the meeting and Mr. Perkins is not returning our calls. If DuPont doesn't live up to its promise we will be ready with further protests. We're not going away until this price-gouging stops. The profiteering has got to end."

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Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

#### PRECAUTIONS

**General:** The risk/benefit ratio of Marinol (dronabinol) use should be carefully evaluated in patients with the following medical conditions because of individual variation in response and tolerance to the effects of Marinol. Marinol should be used with caution in patients with cardiac disorders because of occasional hypotension, possible hypotension, syncope, or tachycardia (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance abuse, including alcohol abuse or dependence, because they may be more prone to abuse Marinol as well. Multiple substance abuse is common and marijuana, which contains the same active compound, is a frequently abused substance.

Marinol should be used with caution and careful psychiatric monitoring in patients with mania, depression, or schizophrenia because Marinol may exacerbate these illnesses.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients receiving concomitant therapy with sedatives, hypnotics or other psychoactive drugs because of the potential for additive or synergistic CNS effects.

Marinol should be used with caution in pregnant patients, nursing mothers, or pediatric patients because it has not been studied in these patient populations.

Marinol should be used with caution for treatment of anorexia and weight loss in elderly patients with AIDS because they may be more sensitive to the psychoactive effects and because its use in these patients has not been studied.

**Information for Patients:** Patients receiving treatment with Marinol (dronabinol) should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system depression if Marinol is used concomitantly with alcohol or other CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

Patients using Marinol should be advised of possible changes in mood and other adverse behavioral effects of the drug so as to avoid panic in the event of such manifestations. Patients should remain under the supervision of a responsible adult during initial use of Marinol and following dosage adjustments.

**Drug Interactions:** In studies involving patients with AIDS and/or cancer, Marinol (dronabinol) has been co-administered with a variety of medications (e.g., cytotoxic agents, anti-infective agents, sedatives, or opioid analgesics) without resulting in any clinically significant drug/drug interactions. Although no drug/drug interactions were discovered during the clinical trials of Marinol, cannabinoids may interact with other medications through both metabolic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms. Dronabinol is highly protein bound to plasma proteins, and therefore, might displace other protein-bound drugs. Although this displacement has not been confirmed *in vivo*, practitioners should monitor patients for a change in dosage requirements when administering dronabinol to patients receiving other highly protein-bound drugs. Published reports of drug/drug interactions involving cannabinoids are summarized in the following table.

CONCOMITANT DRUG	CLINICAL EFFECT(S)
Amphetamines, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents	Additive hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity
Allopurinol, scopolamine, antihistamines, other anticholinergic agents	Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness
Amproprylamine, anisopropyl, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants	Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness
Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opioids, buspirone, antihistamines, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants	Additive drowsiness and CNS depression
Disulfiram	A reversible hypotensive reaction was reported in a 28 y/o man who smoked marijuana, confirmed by dechallenge and rechallenge
Fluoxetine	A 21 y/o female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine X 4 weeks became hypotensive after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days
Antipyrene, barbiturates	Decreased clearance of these agents, presumably via competitive inhibition of metabolism
Theophylline	Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana; effect similar to that following smoking tobacco

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (77 days) in rats, oral administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day (equivalent to 0.3 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients) reduced ventral prostate, seminal vesicle and epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreases in spermatogenesis, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testes were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testosterone levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings in humans is not known.

**Pregnancy:** Pregnancy Category C. Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day, equivalent to 0.2 to 5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients or 1 to 30 times MRHD of 15 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients, and in rats at 74 to 295 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day (equivalent to 0.8 to 3 times MRHD of 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients or 5 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients). These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses which produced less maternal toxicity. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

**Nursing Mothers:** Use of Marinol is not recommended in nursing mothers since, in addition to the secretion of HIV virus in breast milk, dronabinol is concentrated in and secreted in human breast milk and is absorbed by the nursing baby.

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experience information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss included 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg twice daily and 61 receiving placebo. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 68 receiving placebo.

A cannabinoid dose-related "high" (easy laughing, elation and heightened awareness) has been reported by

patients receiving Marinol in both the antiemetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (8%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

The most frequently reported adverse experiences in patients with AIDS during placebo-controlled clinical trials involved the CNS and were reported by 33% of patients receiving Marinol. About 25% of patients reported a minor CNS adverse event during the first 2 weeks; and about 4% reported such an event each week for the next 6 weeks thereafter.

**PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence greater than 1%.**

Rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-emetic use (given in parentheses).

**Body as a whole:** Asthenia

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/facial flush.

Digestive: Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting.

Nervous system: (Annesia), anxiety/nervousness, (ataxia), confusion, depersonalization, dizziness, euphoria, (hallucinations), paranoid reaction, somnolence, thinking abnormal.

**Incidence of events 3% to 10%.**

**PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence less than 1%.**

Event rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-emetic use (given in parentheses).

**Cardiovascular:** Conjunctivitis, hypotension.

Digestive: Diarrhea, fecal incontinence.

Musculoskeletal: Myalgias.

Nervous system: Depression, nightmares, speech difficulties, tinnitus.

Skin and Appendages: Flushing.

Special senses: Vision difficulties.

**Incidence of events 0.3% to 1%.**

**CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN: Incidence less than 1%.**

The clinical significance of the association of these events with Marinol treatment is unknown, but they are reported as alerting information for the clinician.

**Body as a whole:** Chills, headache, malaise.

Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation.

Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis.

Skin and Appendages: Sweating.

**DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**

Marinol (dronabinol) is one of the psychoactive compounds present in cannabis, and is abusable and controlled Schedule II (CII) under the Controlled Substances Act. Both psychological and physiological dependence have been noted in healthy individuals receiving dronabinol, but addiction is uncommon and has only been seen after prolonged high dose administration.

Chronic abuse of cannabis has been associated with decrements in motivation, cognition, judgment, and perception. The etiology of these impairments is unknown, but may be associated with the complex process of addiction to the active constituents of the drug. No such decrements in psychological, social or neurological status have been associated with the administration of Marinol for therapeutic purposes.

In an open-label study in patients with AIDS who received Marinol for up to five months, no abuse, diversion or systematic change in personality or social functioning were observed despite the inclusion of a substantial number of patients with a past history of drug abuse.

An abstinence syndrome has been reported after abrupt discontinuation of dronabinol in volunteers receiving dosages of 210 mg/m<sup>2</sup> for 12 to 15 consecutive days. Within 12 hours after discontinuation, these volunteers manifested symptoms such as irritability, insomnia, and restlessness. By approximately 24 hours post-discontinuation, withdrawal symptoms intensified to include "hot flashes", sweating, rhinitis, loose stools, chills, and anorexia.

These withdrawal symptoms gradually disappeared over the next 48 hours. Electroencephalographic changes consistent with the effects of drug withdrawal (hypocortisolemia) were recorded in patients after abrupt dechallenge. Patients also experienced of disturbed sleep for several weeks after discontinuation therapy with high dosages of dronabinol.

#### OVERDOSEAGE

Signs and symptoms following MILD MARINOL (dronabinol) intoxication include drowsiness, euphoria, heightened sensory awareness, altered time perception, redness of conjunctiva, dry mouth and tachycardia; following MODERATE intoxication include memory impairment, depersonalization, mood alteration, urinary retention, and reduced bowel motility, and following SEVERE intoxication include decreased motor coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, and postural instability. Apprehensive patients may experience panic reactions and seizures may occur in patients with existing seizure disorders.

The estimated lethal human dose of intravenous dronabinol is 30 mg/kg (2100 mg/70 kg). Significant CNS symptoms in antiemetic studies followed oral doses of 0.4 mg/kg (28 mg/70 kg) of Marinol.

**Management:** A potentially serious oral ingestion, if recent, should be managed with gut decontamination. In unconscious patients with a secure airway, orally activated charcoal (50 to 100 g in adults; 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) is a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depressive, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Benzodiazepines (5 to 10 mg diazepam) may be used for treatment of extreme agitation. Hypertension usually responds to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

#### DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Appetite stimulation:** Initially, 2.5 mg Marinol (dronabinol) should be administered orally twice daily (b.i.d.), before lunch and supper. For patients unable to tolerate this 5 mg/day dosage of Marinol, the dosage can be reduced to 2.5 mg/day, administered as a single dose in the evening or at bedtime. If clinically indicated and in the absence of significant adverse effects, the dosage may be gradually increased to a maximum of 20 mg/day Marinol, administered in divided oral doses. Caution should be exercised in escalating the dosage of Marinol because of the increased frequency of dose-related adverse experiences at higher dosages (see PRECAUTIONS).

**Antiemetic:** Marinol is best administered at an initial dose of 5 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, given 1 to 3 hours prior to the administration of chemotherapy, then every 2 to 4 hours after chemotherapy is given, for a total of 4 to 6 doses/day. Should the 5 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose prove to be ineffective, and in the absence of significant side effects, the dose may be escalated by 2.5 mg/m<sup>2</sup> increments to a maximum of 15 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per dose. Caution should be exercised in dose escalation, however, as the incidence of disturbing psychiatric symptoms increases significantly at maximum dose (see PRECAUTIONS).

#### SAFETY AND HANDLING

Marinol (dronabinol) should be packaged in a well-closed container and stored in a cool environment between 5° and 15° C (41° and 59° F). Protect from freezing. No particular hazard to health care workers handling the capsules has been identified.

Access to abusable drugs such as Marinol presents an occupational hazard for addiction in the health care industry. Routine procedures for handling controlled substances developed to protect the public may not be adequate to protect health care workers. Implementation of more effective accounting procedures and measures to appropriately restrict access to drugs of this class may minimize the risk of self-administration by health care providers.

#### HOW SUPPLIED

**MARINOL CAPSULES (dronabinol solution in sesame oil in soft gelatin capsules)**  
2.5 mg white capsules (identified RL)  
NDC 0054-2601-11: Bottles of 25 capsules.  
NDC 0054-2601-21: Bottles of 60 capsules.  
NDC 0054-2601-31: Bottles of 100 capsules.

5 mg dark brown capsules (identified RL)  
NDC 0054-2602-11: Bottles of 25 capsules.  
NDC 0054-2602-21: Bottles of 60 capsules.  
NDC 0054-2602-31: Bottles of 100 capsules.

10 mg orange capsules (identified RL)  
NDC 0054-2603-11: Bottles of 25 capsules.  
NDC 0054-2603-21: Bottles of 60 capsules.  
NDC 0054-2603-31: Bottles of 100 capsules.

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References: 1. Beal JE, Olson R, Lefkowitz L, et al. *J Pain Symptom Manage* 1997;14(1):7-14. 2. Beal JE, Olson R, Laubenstein L, et al. *J Pain Symptom Manage* 1995;10(2):89-97.

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## OBITUARIES

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.; with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

### Charles W. Agneau III

September 9, 1998

Charles Agneau, former Grace Cathedral Verger, died Wednesday, September 9, 1998. Charles was born in Chicago in 1922. He began his adult life in the U.S. Navy during W.W. II, visiting San Francisco often. Charles visited Grace Cathedral in 1943, was confirmed there December 8, 1946, then became director of the Acolyte's Guild and began his duties on October 19, 1959.

Charles served under three deans. He once introduced incense into the air ducts of the cathedral during a festival service, to the annoyance of Dean Bartlett. A lover of clocks, Charles' collection was a delight to hear, especially at noon. Charles' cat, Sebastian, was buried in a secret place during the completion of the cathedral's construction during the late 1960s.

Following a stroke, Charles cut back on his duties, and retired June 30, 1982. Charles was subsequently honored with the title "Verger Emeritus" for his years of service. He continued recently, before his death, to serve tea after the 11 a.m. services, even in his wheelchair. A few

days before his passing over, Charles was informed that Bishop Swing had made him "Honorary Canon of Grace Cathedral."

A memorial service was held for Charles in the cathedral's apse on Friday, October 16, 1998, Charles' birthday. A procession including Bishop Swing interred Charles' ashes and urn in the Chapel of St. Francis Columbarium in the North Bell Tower at the end of the service. Contributions in Charles' memory can be made to "The Charles Agneau Memorial Fund," Grace Cathedral.

### Randolph Thomas Lindsay

October 28, 1998

Dearest Randolph Thomas Lindsay (Randy) passed away October 28, 1998. Randy was born in Ohio, and lived in New York City until three years ago. He worked helping others in New York City's social services. Randy is survived by Doctor Dan at Ward 86, Preston Sullivan, Geri Rodgers, and his beloved cat Oscar. If you knew Randy and would like to talk, please call Geri Rodgers at Westside AIDS Case Management Program, 431-9000, ext. 347.

### Damion Lukas Gonzales

August 25, 1959 — October 14, 1998



Damion was taken from us on Wednesday, October 14, when a respiratory infection led to sudden heart failure. He moved to the City after being displaced in the 1991 Los Angeles earthquake. He lived in the South Park area, socialized in the SoMa bars and in the Castro, and loved his adopted home.

He was a gifted artist, and his erotic works appeared in magazines and were displayed at local bars and at the Folsom Street Fair. Damion was talented in all areas of art, design, and display. He was also handsome and charming and a loyal friend with a big heart.

Damion shall be missed by his large family in Bakersfield, especially his

mother Carmen, sister Della, childhood friend Toby, cousin Cidro, friend Phillip, and many others in Los Angeles, and by his large circle of friends here and at the Russian River, especially his surrogate mother Ruth, friends Dennis Phelan and Robert S., and roommate Eric.

Services were held in Bakersfield and his ashes will be scattered there and in the City he loved. Memorials were also held here in San Francisco.

### Raymond L. Massey

October 13, 1944 — August 13, 1998



Raymond L. Massey, 53, died Thursday, August 13, 1998, after an extended battle with cancer. Raymond was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on October 13, 1944. Upon graduation from Johnstown High School, he began a career in Visual Merchandising. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 to 1968, and was stationed in San Francisco. He also served a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Raymond returned to San Francisco in 1968 and resumed his career in visual merchandising at J.C. Penney, and later at the Emporium. In 1981, Raymond accepted the position of Director of Visual Merchandising at Marshall Field & Company's flagship store on State Street in Chicago. He received numerous awards and commendations for his work.

Raymond is survived by brothers James, Robert, Booker T., Ernest, and sisters Delores Boykin, Valerie Bogus, Florence Peterson, Mary Williams, Cammie and his twin sister Rita Williams. He was a rare individual who was loved by family and friends from coast to coast for his humor, warmth, and caring personality.

We will all miss Raymond's sense of style, unmatched home cooking, parties, and open houses all day and night. He brought people from many worlds together for fellowship and fun. Many friends' homes remain a lasting tribute

to his talent for design and style. To meet and know Raymond was to know how deep a friendship can be and how much he had become a member of our families, spirits, and hearts.

Raymond was buried on August 19, 1998, in his hometown of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Memorial contributions may be made to The Boys Choir of the Charles A. Tindley Academy of Music, Inc., 1399 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

### Andrew Joseph Pelletier, Jr.

Nov. 17, 1957 — Nov. 2, 1998

On November 2, following a long battle with AIDS and its complications, Drew Pelletier passed away at the age of 40. He was born in Exeter, New Hampshire on November 17, 1957, and attended Exeter High School, graduating in 1976. In 1981 he moved from Boston to San Francisco, and worked for Northwest Airlines as Ground Service



Supervisor until his retirement in 1993.

Drew had a great love of travel, friends and family. He traveled extensively around the world, and brought this experience to his keen interest in cooking and fine

cuisine.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Tony Sabella, and many supportive friends in the Bay area. His surviving family members include his mother, Barbara Jane Tardiff, of Exeter, New Hampshire, brothers Dennis, Bruce, and Steve, and sister Karen. He was pre-deceased by his father, Andrew Joseph Pelletier, Sr.

Memorial services were held in San Francisco; a second memorial service will be held for family and friends in his home town of Exeter.

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# Former MCC-SF pastor Jim Dykes dies in Australia

by Vicky Kolakowski

The Reverend Jim Dykes, former pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, died Thursday, October 26 in Sydney, Australia. Dykes, born in 1942, was pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Sydney after he left San Francisco.

Dykes served as pastor of MCC-SF from 1979 to 1981. He is remembered by the church primarily for his leadership on two important actions. Dykes invited the Reverend Jane Spahr to join the staff of the church after conflict erupted within the Presbyterian church about her being lesbian. Perhaps more significantly, he led the church to purchase its present site in the Castro on Eureka Street.

MCC-SF senior pastor the

Reverend Jim Mitulski told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Dykes' "leadership led the congregation in important decisions that have benefited the congregation today; a whole generation of MCC-SF is grateful for the legacy he left."

Dykes is credited with forming numerous groups that have benefited gays and lesbians in Australia. The *Sydney Star Observer* called him "one of [the community's] giants."

"He was a man of passion and gifts, and I'm sad that he's gone," the Reverend Michael England, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Hayward, told the *B.A.R.* England is also a former senior pastor of MCC-SF and served on staff with Dykes.

"Still, he's been ill for a very long time, so there's certainly an element of mercy in his step into eternity," England said. ▼



Reverend Jim Dykes

## Lesbian Methodists plan to wed in violation of church policy

by Timothy Rodrigues

Two lesbians, who are leaders in the California and Nevada regional Methodist church, plan a formal wedding in the church in intentional violation of official church policy, according to the official news agency of the church.

According to a story by Charley Lerrigo in the *California-Nevada*

*United Methodist Review*, Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton announced at a church event that they will celebrate their 15-year relationship with a service of holy union in early 1999. Barnett is the highest-ranking Methodist lay leader in the California and Nevada region, and Charlton is a board member of a church governing body.

The service is being organized by the Reverend Don Fado of St. Mark's Church in Sacramento,

who has invited other pastors to join him in performing the service in violation of official church doctrine – an act of "ecclesial disobedience."

Holy unions of same-sex couples are specifically prohibited by a provision added in 1996 to the church's governing policy; the church's Judicial Council, or supreme court, ruled in August that the provision is enforceable

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# Far and away

by Jim Provenzano

While some have put away medals and memories by now, and maybe even taken a break from their chosen sport, others continue on in a persistent, even dogged way. Long distance running is one of those pursuits.

Front Runners President John Kruse, now a psychiatrist in San Francisco, ran in school and college, but always alone. His jock days as a swimmer in high school and at the University of Rochester provided a sort of holding pattern for him, since he had not figured out he was gay. "I was pre-med, so you're excused from having a social life."

What he enjoys most about

marathoning is "the emphasis on individuality, and the mythos of the long distance runner."

It's also a low maintenance sport. "The only equipment is running shoes and the desire to run," he said succinctly. "That makes it more democratic and inclusive to other people."

It may very well be the first sport of civilization: who can run fastest? What could be more simple?

But it's also a strange sport, too, where training is often done in silent solitude, while the event itself resembles an organized riot. Bodies ornamented with numbers bob and weave for placement as the first burst of

competitors fills the street.

Kruse understands the inner peace of running, the second wind, but says it doesn't happen often enough. "Some runners go all their lives and claim to have

never gotten a second wind," he said.

"I know swimmers zone out. It's almost a sensory deprivation experience. I think even golfers often will sort of feel they're in a groove."

Part of running's popularity, Kruse said, is that "people find a more accessible way to get the endorphins through running. It also doesn't take much coordination. 'I can keep exerting myself without coordination getting in the way!'"

For Kruse, the high points are "being out of doors, connected to the earth. The lack of need for equipment helps, too."

## Too hot to trot

When Kruse ran the marathon at Gay Games V, he said "it was fun to be there cause it was Gay Games, but it was much too warm to run," concurring with the decision of Dutch organizers to shorten the race, due to the heat.

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Front runner Otto Wöthrich crosses the finish line.

Like many runners, Kruse prefers to run early in the morning. Bay Area weather is usually perfect running weather. "The 80 degree weather was not good" in Amsterdam, he said, having done three marathons in 80 degree weather.

The fluid loss and depletion of electrolytes are the worst deterrents to a good race. Some of the higher-placing runners were "people who were more experienced in warm climates," Kruse noted.

But despite the uncontrollable weather, like other runners, there were problems with the way the course was shortened that some believe was discriminatory, particularly for seniors and novice runners.

"They announced ahead of the race that slower people were going to be forced to turn around," Kruse said. "The actual cut-off time was one that discriminated against slower runners. I felt it was not appropriate. It wasn't like we were running across city streets or anything." The track ran south along the banks of the Amstel River.

"Some people train for years for this," Kruse said. "The biggest disappointment was that it was very much last minute. If they had told people in advance, but finding out at the last minute is completely inappropriate."

Gee, that sounds familiar.

Still, Kruse, believes that Amsterdam's Marathon event was much better organized than New York's in 1994, where some people "couldn't even find race numbers."

Other 1998 problems included a water shortage, and a problem in the overall focus of the event. Should it be more for inclusion, which would seem to be the case if the Dutch were so lax about regulations. But switching to an abrupt cut-off point is hardly inclusive.

"Having a coherent mission statement would have helped," Kruse said.

Coherence. Yes. Something to consider as the memories of regulatory infractions gel into a blur of "oh, well's."

## Separate legs

But marathons are a sturdy type, and like that bunny, they keep going and going. Three weeks ago, Kruse and other Bay Area runners ran a relay, the Napa to Santa Rosa, a big event in daylong relay races. Kruse competed with one Front Runners-organized team of two that competed. The "fast" team finished in third place out of 170 teams, which shows that our local lesbian and gay runners are quite accomplished.

Kruse was "the token slow person in the fast team," he joked, mentioning that different members of a team "do separate legs of the grueling course. Some legs of the race are run in darkness." He ran along Sir Francis Drake highway in the full moon, fulfilling his love of being close to nature while pushing his athletic limits. Now, that's the way to enjoy the scenery. ▼



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## GAY GAMES V

### Who goes the distance

#### Gay Games V Top Five Marathon Runners

Otto Wöthrich	Aeugst, Che	2:38:46
Jens Zinke	Kiel, Germany	2:39:51
Carlos Vizcarra	La Puente, USA	2:40:11
2875 Verón Lust	Purmerend Netherlands	2:41:42
Ulf Ziemann	München Germany	2:42:18

#### Outstanding Bay Area marathoners

Steve Mackay	San Francisco	3:18:33
James Maloney	San Francisco	3:21:54
Evan Kerr	Berkeley	3:29:59
Malcolm Russell	San Francisco	3:33:31
Mark Thompson	Berkeley	3:36:08
John Kruse	San Francisco	3:39:05
Bob Fredericks	San Francisco	3:42:18
Peter Lundberg	San Francisco	3:50:59
Charles Loudon	San Francisco	3:54:54
Catherine Goulet	San Francisco	4:00:23
Pamela Hofsis	San Francisco	4:00:23
Awrence Hilty	San Francisco	4:01:07
Jesus Mora	San Francisco	4:02:41
Martin Yonke	Palo Alto	4:07:34
Terry Baransy	San Francisco	4:12:45
Rebecca Rozewicz	San Francisco	4:14:44
Martha Mcdevitt	San Francisco	4:19:32
David Desantis	San Francisco	4:20:23
John Patterson	San Francisco	4:26:39
Alexander Mackentzig	San Francisco	4:29:28
Nazario Zuniga	San Francisco	4:32:38
Dennis Hanna	San Francisco	4:46:10
Dave Studach	San Francisco	4:50:58
Kirsten Anderson	Oakland	4:52:04
Jon Borset	San Francisco	5:00:06

For complete results, go to:  
<http://www.gaygames.org/GGV/results/marathon>



# Gay news in mainstream, specialty media

by Bob Roehr

**G**ays and lesbians are an increasingly part of the news in mainstream media. It is a welcome change but often only skims the surface, seldom offering much depth or breadth of coverage. The gay press has reacted with its own adaptations. Five journalists discussed these dynamics at an October 13 meeting of the Washington chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA).

"We used to be ahead of the curve and the mainstream media would follow us," said Chris Bull, Washington correspondent for the national gay newsmagazine *The Advocate*. "Now the situation has reversed," and the gay press is often called upon "to fill a niche." Five years ago k.d. lange could only come out in *The Advocate*, but for Ellen DeGeneres, "It was the last place she would go, she ended up on the cover of *Time*."

We still have not been granted an interview with her.

"We struggle to fill in the gap, give readers more complexity and depth" than mainstream media may be able to give to a story, Bull said. Focus groups also have led them to devote more space to opinion columns.

Carolyn Lochhead is a reporter with the Washington bureau of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the first major paper to have an openly gay reporter, Randy Shilts. She said that only a quarter of their circulation is in the city itself, most is in the suburbs, "so our stories have to be more general, broader based, presented in a bigger context" with less day-to-day reporting. "The gay press will often break stories, just like other trade press," she said, because they are following an issue more closely.

Lisa Keen, senior editor with the *Washington Blade* and the *New York Blade*, criticized the mainstream media for focusing upon the negative and not giving

a full view of the lesbian and gay community. Turning her attention to the gay press, she scolded many for "the habit of running wire copy," often from a non-gay perspective, rather than developing their own reporting resources.

Keen dislikes the term "alternative press" because "that sounds like we are not real newspapers. We approach journalism very much the same as what we call mainstream journalism."

"One of the biggest problems [of the gay press] is under-capitalization," said William Waybourn. He is the managing partner of a group of investors who have purchased three gay papers (*Southern Voice*-Atlanta, *Houston Voice*, *Impact*-New Orleans) with plans to further increase their holdings.

He sees their competition for readers as the local mainstream and alternative press. The Internet is another competitor on breaking news and as a guide to entertainment. He argued that gay papers must strengthen their editorial product in order to prosper.

Joe Libertore produces Gay News Network (GNN), a magazine-style program seen on cable public access outlets throughout the country. He called television "non-traceable," it is able to reach thousands of people—teens and those in the closet—who either do not have access to gay publications or are too afraid have them around the house.

GNN's quarterly distribution means that they "have got to find the story behind the story," something with shelf life that can educate and inform. He said, "The

highway is littered with carcasses" of others who have tried to do the same type of programming but seem to "hit a wall" after about two years. Cable access prohibits advertising, and these efforts are all-volunteer. GNN has survived for five years.

## Credibility for loonies

Keen criticized the mainstream media for "quoting points of view that tends to give credibility to sources that don't necessarily deserve credibility." She cited a quotation from the Family Research Council criticizing anti-bias laws as "criminalizing pro-family beliefs." And that was left standing without anyone to explain how stupid that statement was.

Lochhead felt it "was very important for readers to know what these people are saying" because they have such a powerful lobbying influence. "I don't even think that Frank Riggs would talk to the gay press," she said, but it was important for people to know what he was saying with the anti-gay Riggs amendment.

"I don't know where you go to 'balance' something like Fred Phelps who puts up signs that say 'God hates fags,'" said Waybourn. "The mainstream press does not go and quote the Ku Klux Klan every time there is a story on black history."

"We seem to be held to a higher standard. We have to prove ourselves, we have to cross another hurdle. It is not the same for women's issues, or Latino issues. I've never seen an anti-Asian group

quoted." Waybourn believes that the extreme right "gets credibility from the mainstream media."

"Every time they build a church, we don't quote the atheists," added Libertore. But he strongly believes that GNN "will lose credibility if we are not objective." That is one reason why he interviewed ex-gay ministry official Anthony Falzarano.

For Lochhead, the fact that the religious right is an influential part of American politics and is making an issue of gays, means that it is an important perspective to cover. She also criticized the gay press for too often taking the perspective that "there is only one legitimate view" within the community. She used the examples of Log Cabin Republicans and liberal opposition to hate crimes legislation, both of which are underplayed.

Keen admitted, "Gay people are human beings and have the right to the same rights as everyone else. To that extent, our coverage is prejudice towards that view. I don't believe the mainstream media has that view. I think it is open to the idea that gay people don't have the right to exist."

Robert Dodge, president of the Washington chapter of NLGJA, looked at coverage of the Matthew Shepard murder and concluded, "No longer does the national media see the loss of a gay life as inconsequential." But "that doesn't happen in a vacuum." He said that NLGJA "makes a difference" in changing the atmosphere of homophobia in the newsroom. ▼

## GLOBE

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policy," Bickford said. "So we complained again to Barney Frank."

Bickford said Frank again started putting pressure on the Air Force and the Defense Department to make this policy known. In May it was finally officially published on the Internet, and hard copies were slowly distributed to Air Force personnel later in the summer.

## Behind enemy lines

Bickford and Air Force GLOBE members rest a little easier now that the policy has been clearly stated. But Bickford said the policy isn't guaranteed to stay in place forever. First of all, Bickford said a Republican president could come in and rescind President Clinton's policies and executive orders. And more importantly, current Air Force policy is not set in stone.

Bickford said current efforts of Air Force GLOBE are to get the word out so gay people know about the organization and the non-discrimination policy, continuously lobbying Congress to support enforcement of existing policies and laws, and continuing to let the military know that they're not allowed to discriminate against civilian employees.

"We look for the next thing to complain about," Bickford said. "We do have political muscle, and we've shown it in the last year by getting the Secretary of Defense to apply pressure to get our environment changed." Even with the

clarified civilian policy, Bickford said the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for enlisted men causes problems for civilians.

"It's a big psychological barrier, because the military thinks it can do whatever it wants," he said.

But as long as a drastic change doesn't occur, Bickford said he thinks the civilian policy is a preview of what will eventually come for enlisted soldiers in the military.

"I think the Secretary of Defense realizes that eventually the military is going to have to let gays in," Bickford said. "We're kind of testing the waters with gay civilians in the military. If the military can get used to that, then it becomes more possible that servicemen will also become protected."

"We're changing the mindset, and we're changing the culture," he said. "But we do still feel like we're working behind enemy lines."

"But now, with federal protection, we can be more at ease being out in the military environment," Bickford added.

GLOBE organizations also exist within the Navy and the Coast Guard, as well as with many other federal organizations. The third annual Federal GLOBE Congress meets November 12 in Pittsburgh, followed the next day by the beginning of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual Creating Change Conference. ▼

For more information about Air Force GLOBE, send e-mail to [USAFglobe@aol.com](mailto:USAFglobe@aol.com) or visit Federal Globe's web page at [www.fedglobe.org](http://www.fedglobe.org).

## Methodists

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as church law and violation of it is a chargeable offense that could result in a church trial.

The issue was most recently brought to public attention by the church trial of the Reverend Jimmy Creech for performing a same-sex wedding in Nebraska in September 1997. Although narrowly acquitted, Creech was not reappointed to his church and is on a leave of absence.

According to Lerrigo in comments to the B.A.R., each region of the church is responsible for enforcing the provisions of church law, and since no punishment is

specified in the one banning same-sex unions, any violation in the California and Nevada region would be prosecuted according to local church governance.

Compared to some other denominations, the Methodist church is quite open about the issue, having distributed this story through the official church news agency.

"We cover the church warts and all," said Tom McAnally, director of the United Methodist News Service. ▼

Affirmation is the organization of gay and lesbian Methodists, more information on the group can be obtained at their website: [www.umaffirm.org](http://www.umaffirm.org).

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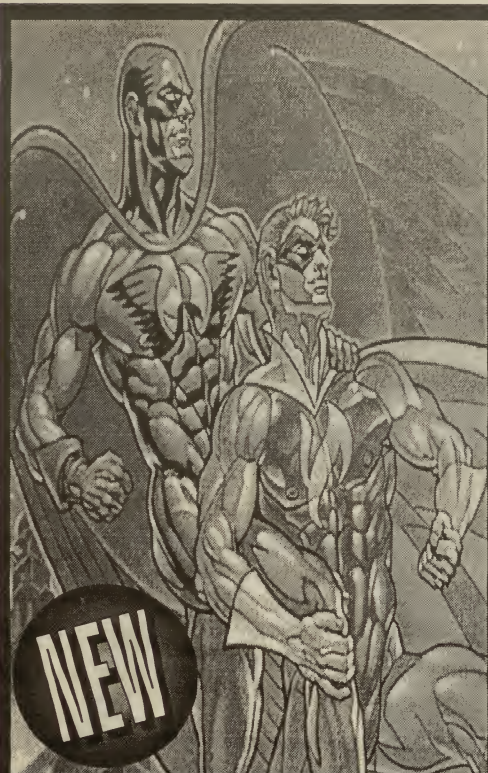
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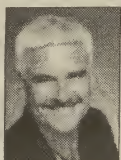
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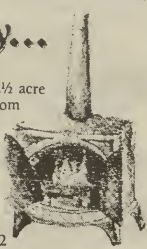
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The following person(s) are doing business as Libby's Kitchen, 554 Market St., San Francisco CA 94104. This business is conducted by an individual signed Libby A. Hoggatt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/02/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/02/98.  
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OCT 22, 29, NOV. 5, 12, 1998

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 225987**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Libby's Kitchen 554 Market St., SF, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Libby A. Hoggatt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/02/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/02/98.  
OCT 22, 29, NOV. 5, 12, 1998

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 226263**  
The following person(s) are doing business as ArtBytes Digital Archiving Service, 62 Belcher St. San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anthony A. Manglicmot. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/16/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/16/98.  
OCT 22, 29, NOV. 5, 12, 1998

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 226451**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Projex Programming Services 356 Chester Ave San Francisco, CA 94132. This business is conducted by a general partnership D&D Enterprises signed Dan Htwe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/26/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/26/98.  
OCT 29, NOV. 5, 12, 19, 1998

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 226996**  
The following person(s) are doing business

as Not For Sissys 1403 Golden Gate Ave/ SF, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Boyd E. Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/22/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/22/98.  
OCT 29, NOV. 5, 12, 19, 1998

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 998793**  
In the Matter of the Application of Jeffrey Stephen Bauer. For Change of Name. The application of Jeffrey Stephen Bauer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jeffrey Stephen Bauer has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Jeffrey Stephen Marcujohn. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 15th day of December 1998, at 9:00 o'clock AM., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
OCT. 29 NOV. 5, 12, 19, 1998

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 226607**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Emerald City Exports, 835 14th St. San Francisco CA 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, Bradford R. Wells, Anthony J. Makk, signed Bradford R. Wells. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/30/98.  
NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 226364**  
The following person(s) are doing business

as The Preowned Watch SVC CTR America, 888 Brannan St, Suite 3300, SF, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual Avi Dayan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/21/98.  
NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 02167700**  
The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Blue Nile Enterprises, 1252 24th Ave, SF, CA 94122. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on 10/27/98. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Joshua Hatter. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco county on 10/27/98.  
NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 998773**  
In the Matter of the Application of Gerald Anthony Perry. For Change of Name. The application of Gerald Anthony Perry for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Gerald Anthony Perry has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Jabari Ajala Sekow. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 8th day of December 1998, at 9:00 o'clock AM., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998



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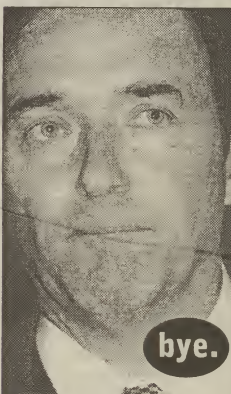
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Surviving the dog-eat-dog publishers  
Author Rebecca Brown returns to City  
Lights with a new novel, 'The Dogs.'

page 45

Keeping the faith  
In 'The Same Embrace,' a  
gay twin, an Orthodox one.

page 43



Independents day  
Film Arts Fest of  
Indie Cinema returns.

page 36



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 45 • 5 November 1998

## NO ONE

Todd Haynes'  
glam rock-inspired  
'Velvet Goldmine'

**T**odd Haynes is fast becoming one of the most problematic filmmakers to emerge from the ranks of independent cinema. His early Karen Carpenter biopic, *Superstar*, which irreverently assessed the life of a beloved but troubled pop icon, indicated the arrival of a unique new talent. But *Poison*, his follow-up, was more flash than substance, its three interwoven stories, each a meditation on AIDS, falling into inscrutability. His next film, *Safe*, remains a breathtakingly original work, an anti-"niche" film about a bourgeois woman eclipsed by a neurosis so debilitating that her survival depends on nothing less than total retreat from civilization. But even *Safe* has its problems: the film's first half makes all the right moves, but the balance of the picture devolves into weak satire and preachiness, leaving viewers wondering if the director hadn't made two seemingly unrelated films in one.

Haynes' latest effort, *Velvet Goldmine*, is also likely to inspire head-scratching befuddlement. The film is a glitzy period piece about glam rock, that short-lived phenomenon of the early '70s popularized by rockers David Bowie, Iggy Pop, Bryan Ferry, Brian Eno, and Marc Bolan, among others. Though it continues the deplorable trend of '70s nostalgia movies, *Velvet Goldmine* bucks the trend by focusing on a brief episode of the decade that Haynes would like us to believe has been ignored or forgotten by pop commentators. Unfortunately, the film is a more worthy demonstration of the pitfalls of period filmmaking than it is summary of an era.

*Velvet Goldmine* concerns the life and times of Brian Slade, a fictional glam rock superstar who vanished in 1974 at the height of his fame. Using a framing device none-too-subtly borrowed from *Citizen Kane*, Haynes tells Slade's story through the eyes of people who knew him at the peak of his career and who relate details of his life ten years later to a reporter who has been assigned to write one of those "whatever happened to" pieces about the singer.

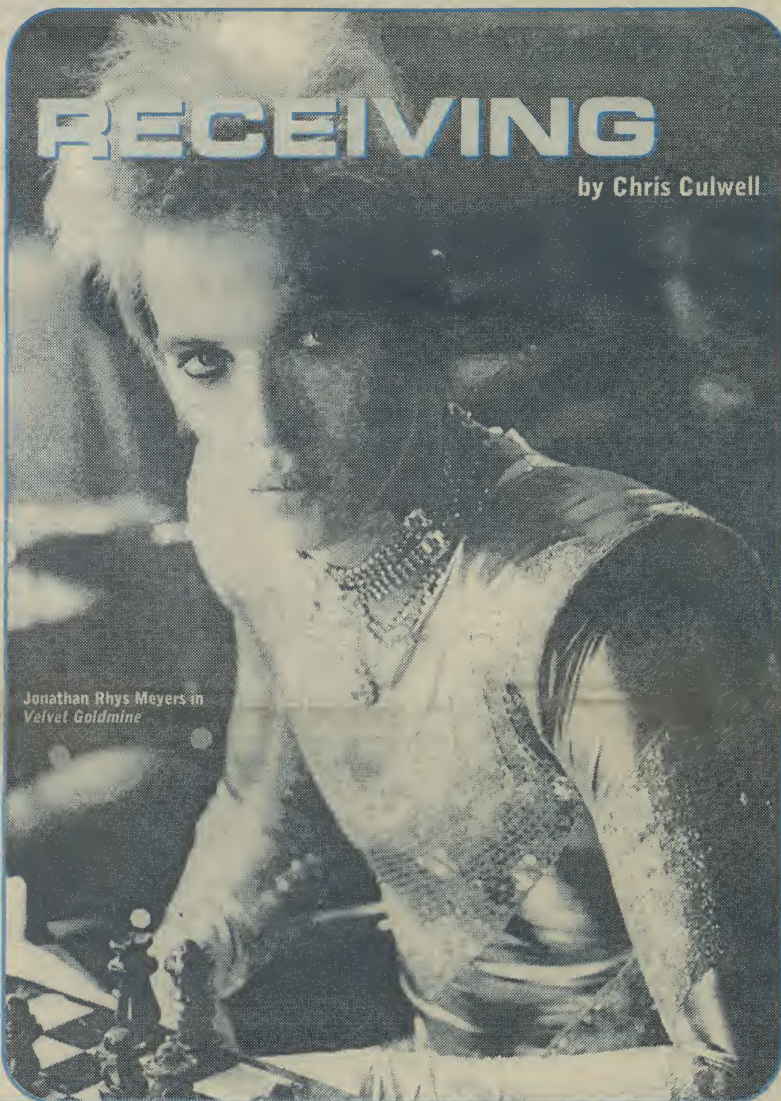
Two characters do most of the reminiscing, Slade's ex-wife Mandy (Toni Collette) and an Iggy Pop-like rocker named Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor), who was Slade's lover until Curt got too

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## RECEIVING

by Chris Culwell

Jonathan Rhys Meyers in  
*Velvet Goldmine*



Peter Mountain

## SCHLOCK

## VALUE

by Gary Morris

'A Tribute to Al Adamson  
and Regina Carroll'

**S**leazy movies of the '60s and '70s are having the same kind of cultural resurgence as lounge music. The same hipsters who have helped return Martin Denny, the Rat Pack, and the swinging bachelor pad to the public consciousness are demanding their schlock — and getting it, thanks to canny programs like *Schlock-o-Rama*, the Al Adamson retrospective at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (Saturday evenings, November 7-21).

Adamson has always been ranked in the lower tier of cinematic trash, even by the low standards of the genre. The late filmmaker has had little notice until now outside the bastions of the fan-boy zines, which revel in the mindless acting styles, brainless babes, drug-addled bikers, and ultra-cheesy monsters that make up Le Cinema Adamson.

That will all change with this series, which opens November 7 with *Satan's Sadists*. This twisted 1970 biker drama showcases the Adamson stock company of the time, most notably a clearly chemically altered Russ

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Regina Carroll in  
*Satan's Sadists*

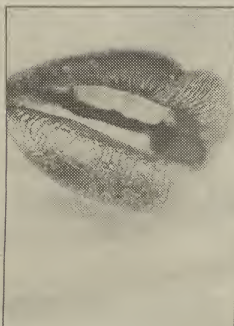
SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



by Roberto Friedman  
and Thursday Weld

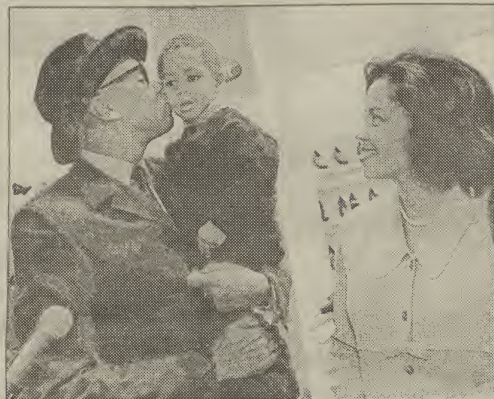
Well, that's one problematic holiday over with, two or three to go, depending on your perspective. We attended the rally in the Castro Halloween night and heard Ammiano, Leno, and (Jonathan) Katz (does that not sound like a law firm?) fire up the carnival crowd. Our travels on All Hallows Eve also brought us in close proximity with an unusual number of gay tourists from Texas — and we thought our costume was scary! But since we go to press before the returns come in on this Election Day, we don't know whether our truly horrific nightmare — the Republicans coming into yet more power — has come true.

But we have to say this town really swings on a Thursday night. Thursdays are what we live for. The invitations which came pour-



Lips at Armani

ing in for a recent Thursday night included an opening for Italian artists Luigi Mormino and Maurizio Catalano at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, a launch party for Zahid Sardar's *San Francisco Modern: Interiors, Architecture & Design* at SFMOMA, a celebration



RuPaul kisses his nephew, Henry, as his sister, Roxy, looks on during his appearance at The Rockport Company in a benefit for GLAAD.

of Chronicle Books' *Read My Lips: A Cultural History of Lipstick* at Emporio Armani, and RuPaul's debut as celebrity spokesperson for The Rockport Company, a shoe store. Sippin' Campari and soda with the Consul General or talkin' pumps with RuP: what to do, what to do?

Of course we wound up at the bar at Emporio Armani, marveling at the idea of making spillables and finger foods readily available in the middle of a store full of cashmere suits and other chic outfits that cost a few months' salary. The cocktail crowd seemed to consist of a few people connected to the book, a good number of well-groomed models male and fe-

male, Congressional son Paul Pelosi, and various louche sorts "who must be on the department store circuit," according to martini-quaffing Mr. B. Boy, were there a lot of lipstick smears on those cocktail glasses. Women said to men before they air-kissed them, "I promise I won't smear on your cheek."

Next we winged it to Rockport, just in time to spy RuPaul, dressed quite naturally as a man, with a jaunty hat tipped on, and an oh-so-insouciant air, dangling his nephew on his knee, exit. Then there we were, in a brightly-lit shoe store, being offered wine and

canapés. Soon we were history.

#### Control room

The ugly side of technology is artist Julia Scher's playground, especially the apparatus and culture of surveillance technology, which are employed to fascinating effect in *Predictive Engineering*, her multichannel video and audio installation now showing at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, through January 12.

"I love institutions," Scher said at her press conference, while conceding that she once wanted to blow them up. "This piece is a poem about control."

That poem takes the form of a gallery filled with video monitors playing real-time and staged sequences from cameras positioned all around (and on the roof of) the museum. Watch assorted curators, past and present museum directors, and other staff members stalk around galleries, offices, even the odd rest room. Disembodied computer voices, alerted to your presence by laser technology, announce things like, "Attention, attention — you are in the system," "Activate bodyraps now!" and "Do not leave until the cameras have absorbed you!" There's a lot of humor in this work (and a lot of nekkid bodies running around the museum in the video clips — that's how we know it's avant-garde), but Scher's basic investigation is still downright frightening. The technology of surveillance is evolving at such a breakneck pace that it's a good idea to take a step back and examine it, as Scher's art does, and consider our Orwellian future.

page 50 ►

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Unidentified curator stalking SFMOMA men's room, from Julia Scher's *Predictive Engineering*², 1998 (video still)

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# Live a little

## 42nd Street Moon's 'Nymph Errant'

by Richard Dodds

**N**ymph Errant gives new meaning to the notion of the grand tour. "I almost went 'round the world," says the wayfaring heroine with the frustrated libido, before adding dryly, "but not quite." By this late point in the 1933 Cole Porter musical, we've been primed to catch the drift, but there can still be surprise at the familiar double entendres in use all those years ago.

Though virtually unseen since its original London production, the musical has sustained a reputation as an unusually saucy enterprise for its day, a reputation that an engaging 42nd Street Moon production confirms.

"Marriage is for respectability," says one character. "For sex, there are affairs." Later, when the romance-starved heroine meets a woman from the isle of Lesbos, she does a double take, remarking, "I may get back to you on that." And when she hungrily eyes a group of good-looking men backstage at a theater, she is warned, "Don't expect too much. A chorus boy is a chorus boy."

Before it could open, *Nymph Errant* had to pass muster with the government censor, a feat accomplished by tossing the blue-penciler a bone. The producer agreed to cut an unambiguously provocative scene set in a German nudist colony, although 42nd Street Moon offers up an amusing snippet of its attendant song

### "Sweet Nudity."

The nudist colony was to have been one of the stops in Evangeline Edwards' travels after taking to heart the suggestion of her finishing-school headmistress to experiment. Her adventures begin on the train home to Oxford, when a famous producer convinces her to accompany him to Paris, where he promises to make her a star. But just as the passion she so deeply desires appears ready for consummation, chance whisks her off to one exotic locale after another, where the same frustrating pattern is replayed. Finally back in Oxford, she discovers that the key to happiness may be in her own backyard: the new gardener.

The musical version of *Nymph Errant* arrived on stage just a year after the James Laver novel that inspired it created a stir with its lusty tale of a female Candide. The stage adaptation by Romney Brent can be hokey, but it's generally better than many of the other mindless musical librettos of its era. No Porter classics emerged from the lyrically playful score, which mixes plot-integrated songs with completely capricious novelty songs for characters who come and go nearly as fast as their songs.

### Knowing spirit

Director Greg MacKellan finds the right tones to sustain the material in the staged-concert production, and he is abetted by an able cast that enlivens the characters with a knowing spirit. Caro-

line Altman is particularly delightful as the searching, searching Evangeline, the role created by Gertrude Lawrence, and she combines a Julie Andrews-type of sweetness with shrewd comic skills. All else in the cast play multiple roles, and among those making multiple strong impressions are Steven Patterson, Anandah Carter, Steve Rhyme, Amy Cole, Sara Clark, Corey Schaffer, and Milissa Carey.

Berle Davis' choreography adds flavor by not trying too hard, and music director Brandon Adams helps keep the production on a sharp musical track.

The mission of 42nd Street Moon is to uncover intriguing "lost" musicals, though some mu-



Caroline Altman, Anandah Carter, and George Quick in *Nymph Errant*

sicals have been more lost than others, and some more worthy of rediscovery. But *Nymph Errant* amply and delightfully fulfills both bills. ▼

*Nymph Errant* will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Nov. 15. Tickets are \$18.50 and \$20. Call 861-8972.



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## Echt Brecht



**C**hristopher Peak (left) and Jay Campbell (right) star in director Di Trevis' portrait of the great playwright Bertold Brecht in the musical tribute *Happy Birthday, Brecht*, making its San Francisco premiere at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. The first performance, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m., will be a benefit for Send A Piano To Havana; the run continues Nov. 5-7 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. The play, set in the Berliner Ensemble rehearsal room in 1950, features music of Kurt Weill, Hans Eisler, and Brecht himself. For tickets, call 621-7797. ▼

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# Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema Loads of lesbians

by Gary Morris

**S**an Francisco doesn't always live up to the progressive image it presents (or that the media perpetuates for its own dubious reasons) to the rest of the country. Half the city is being appropriated by yuppie trash, the local media is strictly backwater, the streets are overrun by the same angry soccer moms in lumbering SUVs you'd see in suburban Dallas, homelessness is pervasive and ignored. There is one area, though, where The City does stand out from an increasingly homogenous culture: independent filmmaking.

The Film Arts Festival, now in its 14th year, is a good index of the richness of cinematic talent operating in the Bay Area. In some ways we've gotten spoiled, perhaps, by the multiplicity of voices we hear from the slew of local film fests, but this one is special in drawing exclusively on local filmmakers. For queer viewers, particularly culture-consuming dykes, this year's show has a number of solid entries.

Reversing the usual trend, there's very little gay male content this year, just a couple of shorts, but loads of lesbian works that

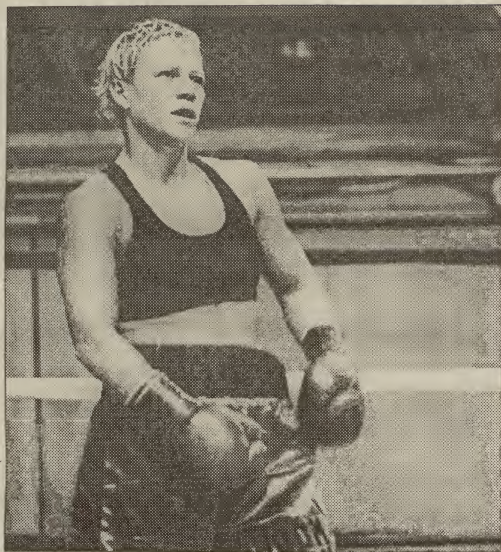
mine an increasingly diverse dyke scene. For the first time, the Film Arts folks have programmed a whole evening of shorts and near-feature-length docs, called *Lez Beings*.

Some of these works are being premiered; others are familiar. *Sleep Come Free Me* (1998) won the audience award for best short in last year's SF lesbian/gay fest—and deservedly. In a speedy 19 minutes, Schmidt refashions the workplace as a weird and wonderful space for lesbian mindgames and lurid sex fantasies that skirt the scatological.

Another traditionally male space reclaimed in this year's program is amateur boxing. Laura Plotnick's hour-long *Red Rain* (1998) focuses on Gina "Boom Boom" Gidi, a sunny, butch blonde who's the women's welterweight champion of the world. Gina gets it from all sides—*Ms. magazine* refuses to cover her story because "there's nothing feminist about two women hitting each other," while she's reviled as a dyke in some quarters. But this loving tribute shows just how the discipline of the sport united her family, pulled her out of drugs and booze addictions, and won her the support of most of both the gay and boxing communities. As distasteful as boxing is as a rather wretched tableau of mostly poor people pummeling each other for public consumption, the charismatic Gina sails through it all with spirit and style and a sense of humor. "The gay community's going to love this," she says, uncharacteristically picking up a needle and thread, "seeing me sew."

### Sweet alienation

Some of the other shorts mine less gritty realms of lesbian life. Local curator and PopcornQ maven Jenni Olson weighs in with *Blue Diary* (1997), a slight but effective six-minute exegesis of a failed romance between a straight girl and a dyke. Lingering shots of brightly colored but anonymous streets and cars whizzing by give



Gina "Boom Boom" Gidi in Laura Plotnick's *Red Rain*

an almost sweet sense of alienation to the story, told by an off-screen narrator. Lauren Himmel's *The Tragedy of Samantha Biggle and the Twins* (1998) is more ambitious at around a half-hour. This time it's boarding-school baby dykes, or potential ones at any rate, in a typical triangle. While many of the works in this year's fest are experimental in mode, this one shows that classical narrative still has its attractions, and the whole thing is a convincing argument for teenage lesbianism as a tonic for the torpor of the middle-class hetero family. Natalija Vekic's enchanting six-minute fairy tale *The Sacred Heart* (1998) returns us to experimental territory. This masterful exercise in chiaroscuro skewers the Sleeping Beauty fairy tale with its black-and-white images

of a beautiful Ophelia-like woman awakened not by the prince, but by the princess. Other works worth checking out include Donna Carter's brief, charming self-portrait, *Tomboy* (1997), and Rebekah Sitty's well-acted drama *And Then the Dog Came Over* (1998).

A highlight of the festival from any perspective is Soshana Rosenfeld's *Scent uVa Butch* (1998), a wonderful half-hour visit with a startling array of butch dykes. While gay men pioneered genderfuck, it looks like lesbians have pulled ahead in the gender redefinition sweepstakes. Here we meet dykes of all stripes: a Clark Kent nerd wannabe, a Latina "gentleman butch," a tough mechanic, butches in evening gowns (which they call "drag"), a leather dyke who moons over the femmes, and in a heady mix, one who laughingly calls herself "a kind of nelly faggot butch!" These women are pushing hard at every boundary, refusing to accept definitions of who they are not only from straight society but from other gay people. Even the flesh must bend to the will of these playful pioneers. As one says, "I feel like my body either has curves or it doesn't according to what I feel like that day." ▼



From *The Sacred Heart*

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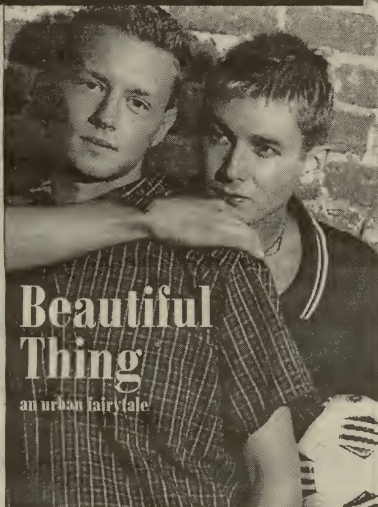
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# Good Vibrations' 'Beyond Boogie Nights'

## The golden age of promiscuity

by Gary Morris

Besides its obvious value as one-fisted viewing, pornography is one of the better cultural indices of body norms at any given time. Fans of present-day porn appreciate the clean, buff, almost plastically smooth bodies of the stars, that look of vibrant health that seems to be a subtle repudiation of the ravages of AIDS. But during the pre-disease heyday of the '70s, body types were much more varied, and there was a sense of transgressive fun in the image of what looked like average Joes and Janes fucking and sucking their brains out without a hint that they'd been to the gym.

Good Vibrations' *Beyond Boogie Nights*, curated by Dr. Carol Queen (tonight, Nov. 5, at the Castro), is a welcome reminder of this egalitarian era, with a series of clips from some of the best-known films of the time. These are mostly from the so-called Golden Era of the '70s, and they will be followed by a panel discussion with porn luminaries like Richard Pacheco, the suspiciously named Candida Royalle, and the ubiquitous Annie Sprinkle. The clips are mainly straight, with some nice lesbian, gay, and bi scenes thrown in for good measure.

Seventies porn was a time of directors as well as stars. Chief among them was Radley Metzger, here represented by scenes from four of his films. The infamous *Opening of Misty Beethoven* (1976) posits a future of unbridled fucks, where an airline stewardess takes your order: "That's two blowjobs and a brandy?" Less ambitious but more sexy is the sequence from *Naked Came the Stranger* (1975), where a beautiful woman mindlessly masturbates on a staircase. Metzger's *Barbara Broadcast* (1977) features porn star Wade Nichols, a bisexual hunk who acted for a while on a TV soap opera and was also seen

in a few gay porn flicks like *Boynapped*. The last of the Metzgers is *Maraschino Cherry* (1978), a lesbian fetish epic that makes good use of a dildo and a hotplate.

### Holmes again

The sight of John Holmes, one of the homeliest stars of porn, may send some viewers scurrying back to the buff boys of Kristin Bjorn. The donkey-dicked wonder, all veins and rubbery flesh, is seen here in a clip from *The King* getting blown by Linda Wong. More fetching in the male flesh department are the men of Joe Gage's *El Paso Wrecking Corp.* (1975). The scene quoted in this show has a utopian sexual undercurrent as a "straight" man gets it on with a hungry gay guy for the amusement of his masturbating girlfriend. Celebrity flesh hounds will appreciate the clip of the now-unappetizing Sylvester Stallone in a clip from *The Italian Stallion* (1970).

Religion used to be more of a background staple of porn than it is now, as seen in clips from *Naughty Victorians* (1975) and *Autobiography of a Flea* (1976). Maybe there's just no more fun to be squeezed out of mingling the two, but the latter scene is almost charming in its implication that the absolution of a fallen woman can be attained by the priest going down on her.

There are a few glaring absences in this show, including *Deep Throat*, that may be discussed at the show. And some of the scenes here are more tease than titillation. Due to time limitations, it's inevitable that some sequences end before the sex begins, as in the clip from the classic *Devil in Miss Jones* (1972). However, fans of that film's star, Georgina Spelvin, will be compensated with a solid scene from *3 A.M.* (1975), another Spelvin epic that casts her as a dyke, slipping and sliding and screwing with a pal all over a shower. This sequence has all the virtues of the



Candida Royalle

period — shot on film rather than video, it has a grit and grain that give it an automatic sexual edge. And the image of unabashed female bodies covered in water and wriggling wildly in every direction hints at the kind of giddy sexual submersion the period promised but never, unfortunately, was able to deliver on. ▼

**Beyond Boogie Nights:** Celebrating the Golden Age of the Blue Movie takes place tonight, November 5, at the Castro Theatre. Reception: 6 p.m.; clips show and panel discussion: 8 p.m. For ticket information, call 974-8985, ext. 250.

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## Velvet Goldmine

◀ Arts cover

close. The reporter assigned to the story, Arthur Stuart (Christian Bale), has mixed feelings about the assignment: when Slade went missing in '74, he was one of the singer's biggest fans, but he couldn't understand at the time why he was so drawn to Slade. Working on the story as an adult forces him to confront what he couldn't as a teenager, and he's a better man for it.

### Renegade reimagining

But *Velvet Goldmine* has more than facile psychology up its long and bulky sleeve. The film is also a renegade reimagining of pop history. When Slade begins a sexual relationship with the carnal Curt Wild, the camera lingers on their kisses, revealing the sort of affection between men that was rarely shown or discussed at the time but was precisely the sort of dangerous love that characterized glam rock's transgressive spirit. For young viewers, these scenes will seem unremarkable, but those of us who remember the era are likely to greet these images with a mixture of joy and anger: joy because Haynes is shedding light on queer aspects of glam rock that homophobic commentators, pop historians, and journalists avoided acknowledging at the time; and anger because some of the parties responsible for de-queering glam were the artists themselves, many of whom went back in the closet after AIDS took the chic out of sexual experimentation. (It's perhaps an interesting historical note that David Bowie, on whose life this film is rumored



Ewan McGregor with Jonathan Rhys Meyers in *Velvet Goldmine*

to be loosely based, and who would not authorize the use of his music for this film, has remained tight-lipped over the years about his activities as bisexual persona Ziggy Stardust.)

Part melodrama, part mystery, part queer treatise, *Velvet Goldmine* is many things, but, alas, it is also a failure, mostly because none of it feels real where it ought to. While Haynes has left no stone unturned in his effort to recreate the '70s in all its awful ostentation, he's forgotten to populate his

epic with anything even closely resembling human beings. There are exquisite crane shots, nervy editing, creative lighting and photography, fabulous costumes, and a soundtrack that boasts premium tracks from Roxy Music and early Brian Eno. And, too, there are crazy fashions, spectacular concerts, and orgiastic crowd shots that give one the giddy feeling of being at a rock concert, but all of this window-dressing is lost on characters who haven't been realized with anything like the

grandeur and depth of the production design. Indeed, watching *Velvet Goldmine* is a bit like looking at pictures for a storybook not yet written. We see many fine things, but nothing in the script enables our belief in what is taking place on the screen, and as the film moves from one big fabulous picture to another, a viewer is beset by exhaustion, not enlightenment.

### Empty platforms

The casting contributes to the film's dehumanized atmosphere. Jonathan Rhys Meyers as Brian Slade looks great in his flashy velvet suits and platform shoes, but he can't invest his role with any kind of meaning. The actor is forever turning his glazed visage toward the camera, as if poised to convey something lofty, but nary a complete thought emerges from his shapely mouth, making it hard to believe that he could be host to either a superstar musical talent or a personality capable of inspiring love in Mandy, Curt Wild, or anyone else.

The supporting cast is hardly

more illuminating. Ex-wife Mandy is as one-dimensional at film's end as she is at the beginning, making her supposed grief over losing Slade as implausible as it is invisible. Ewan McGregor's Curt Wild has some good moments, especially when he's on-stage waving his genitals at the audience. But we never learn much about him, why he chose his lifestyle, why he falls for Slade, or vice versa. Christian Bale's reporter is the most human of the bunch, but even he is burdened with enough cumbersome lines to be mistaken for a piece of attractive driftwood.

Todd Haynes expects a lot out of *Velvet Goldmine*, that the film will be taken seriously as history, entertainment, and, no doubt, as art. But it's hard to imagine what will draw people to this film, lacking as it is in interesting characters who might provide such qualities as intelligence, humor, irony—in short, humanity. ▼

*Velvet Goldmine* opens Friday, November 6.

## Schlock-o-Rama

◀ Arts cover

Tamblin. This rip-off of Cornman's *Wild Angels* has Tamblin as a babbling sadist and intellectual who directs his goons to torture and kill a string of "normal" citizens, including old Hollywood actor Scott Brady. Adamson's real-life wife and frequent star Regina Carroll is a masochistic moll who slobbers over the indifferent Tamblin. Fans of musical entropy will want to pay special attention to the droning "score" by Harley Hatcher and the Nighthawks. Also on this bill is a 20-minute exegesis of the life of the auteur called *Al Adamson: Drive-in-Monster*.

The second bill happens on November 14, and it's one of his most watchable. *The Female Bunch* was shot in 1969 on what the press notes call "the home of the Manson family," which we assume means the infamous Spahn ranch. The story is typical of the times—a group of women (who all look like grindhouse whores) express their hatred of men by starting a desert commune and spending their time applying make-up, riding horses, screaming at each other, getting drunk, tormenting stray males, and of course dealing heroin to support their free-wheeling desert lifestyle. Poor Lon Chaney, Jr. plays a drunken old slob mooning over the ringleader, and Russ Tamblin appears (again altered) just in time for one of the gals to brand

his forehead. Adamson's peculiar brand of paranoid feminism brings loads of no doubt unintentional laughs. The original second film on this bill, *Girls for Rent*, was replaced at the last minute by the allegedly better but unseen-by-me *Angel's Wild Women* (1972).

### Truth or dare?

I haven't said much about the verisimilitude of these films; it just seemed too easy to laugh off Adamson's endearingly awful attempts to make his films believable. But the third bill on the series, on November 21, makes this discussion imperative. In *Dracula vs. Frankenstein* (1971) and *Horror of the Blood Monsters* (1970), we see Adamson practically daring us to believe anything we see!

*Dracula vs. Frankenstein* has the look of one of those live "horror" stage shows that hit the urban grindhouses in the 1950s. *Dracula*'s a long-faced guy with Hal-loween fangs and smeary lipstick. *Frankenstein* has a \$2 mask that looks like a collapsed soufflé. The good doctor and the goony servant (played respectively by veterans J. Carroll Naish and Lon Chaney, Jr., in their last roles) stare fixedly as they read their dialogue cards. In the background of this historic meeting of monsters are drug-swilling hippies, vicious bikers, go-go girls, and Regina Carroll with her mounds of My Pretty Pony hair and troweled-on make-up.

The piece de resistance and per-  
page 51 ▶

It's 24 hours until Christmas and all comic hell is about to break loose in Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies.

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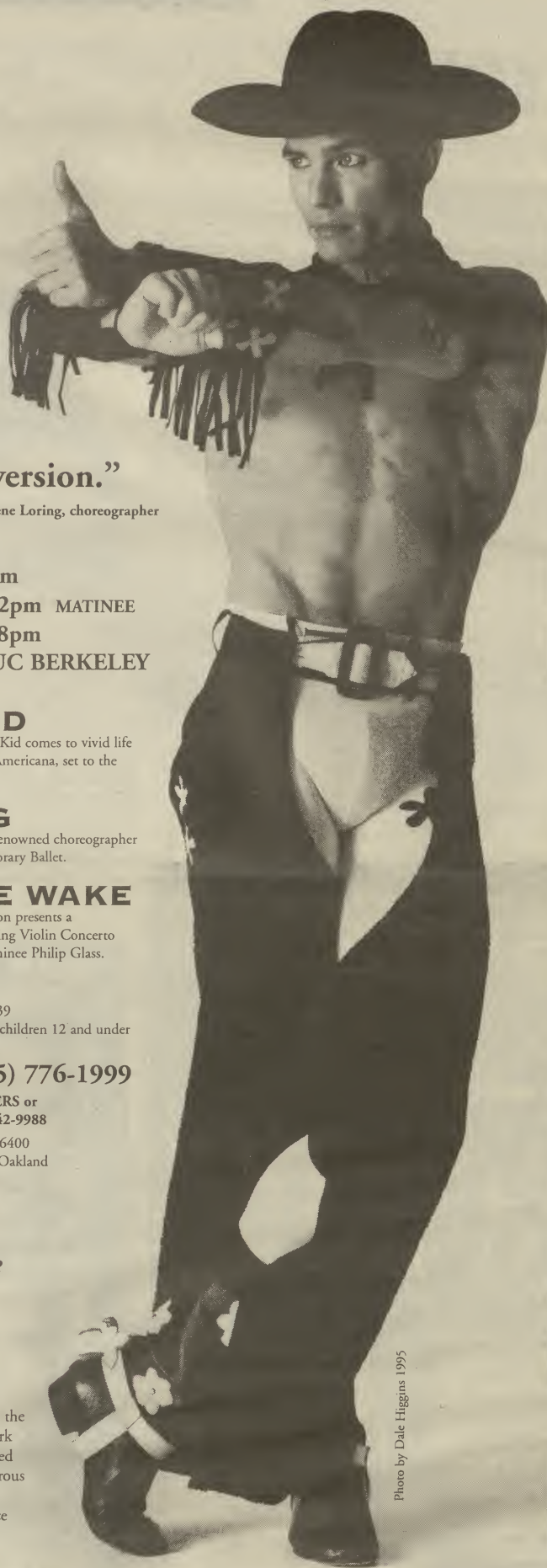


Photo by Dale Higgins 1995

**BILLY THE KID**

**OAKLAND BALLET**

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# Rainbow goddess

## 'Judy' retrospective box set

by John F. Karr

Were she alive, Judy Garland would have been 76 years old this year. It's been 60 years since she starred in *The Wizard of Oz*, and 30 years since her death. While Garland's incredible talent keeps her alive and present for her many fans, a new generation of Judy-lovers is being courted with the release from 32 Records of *Judy*, a new box set of music, video, and words in her honor.

The first thing you'll want to know is what's in this overview of the star's career. The set includes a splendidly illustrated and not infrequently informative 100-page book of essays, photographs, and detailed notes on the recordings. The 4 CDs of recordings contain the following: CD 1 covers Judy's emergence from childhood to adult stardom with recordings from her MGM films and the simultaneously made Decca discs. CD 2 documents Judy's post-Hollywood years as a concert star and hit-maker for Capitol Records. And discs 3 and 4 are devoted to Judy's last major creative effort, her CBS television show of 1963. Of these 30 songs, half are making their digital debut, and half are songs she never otherwise recorded. Finally, there is a 30-minute video of clips from the show itself, adding Judy's visual impact as the set's final

stamp.

The set gets off to a smashing start with four recordings of Judy solo and in harmony with her sisters, in the only known documentation of her vaudeville years. These are the earliest known recordings of Judy, and come from the soundtracks of the very first two film shorts she made, in 1929. They were recorded "live," and have been as skillfully re-mastered as possible. On them, at the age of seven, Judy is off-key, tinny, and hard-edged, not sounding at all like the Judy we know, except that she's loud. The big revelation comes a minute later, when the 12-year-old girl who launches lustily into "Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart" is the full-blown Judy we know. The contrast between the cuts is breathtaking; it made me drop my jaw, and listen to the subsequent three hours of recordings in total Judy-awe. This lead-in alone may be worth the entire price of the set.

At a full price of \$79.95, that cost may be a bit steep. The majority of these recordings have been previously available, after all, and although *Judy* is garnished with some obscure and delicious items, a mid-line price would have made the set more approachable. Still, on its own terms, the set unquestionably accomplishes its maker's aims.

### The vision thing

Producer Joel Dorn, who "dis-

covered" Bette Midler and Roberta Flack and produced their first albums, along with those of a zillion other stars, told me about his vision for the set in a telephone interview last week.

"We bought the Judy Garland television shows from a broker who bought them from Sid Luft, her ex-husband," Dorn said. Two side-notes here are that while the broker paid \$90,000, Dorn paid three million for the shows, making the perpetually cash-strapped Luft so furious that a New York Supreme Court judge had to forbid him from continuing to represent himself as their owner; and yes, Dorn's company plans to market them soon. "When the shows came our way," he continued, "we decided to buy, because we're not talking about a bench-warmer here, it's Judy Garland."

"And I had noticed that there wasn't an overview of her entire career. So I thought we could present the music from her TV show as an anchor for the project, and then go back and show Judy from the beginning, and, like, watch the flower open."

When I criticized the short timings of the set's CDs, which each top out at not much over half of what a CD can hold, Dorn defended the set's exclusivity.

"We weren't trying to do something mammoth for the sake of completion," he explained. "That wasn't the story we were trying to tell. I wanted to have, in



The Archives of Milton H. Greene, LLC

Judy Garland, now and forever, amen

one place, examples of it all."

So with what appears to be stingy precision but is actually a tonic from gluttony, the set accomplishes its aim of depicting in one collection Judy at each stage of her career. The exacting selection includes only eight songs from five MGM movies, only one song from *A Star is Born*, one cut apiece from each of the five Capitol albums, and, amazingly, only two cuts from one of the most famous and fabulous records of all time, the Carnegie Hall concert of 1961. Balancing these are the rar-

ities — those amazing (and brief) vaudevillian early film tracks, a half-dozen radio appearances, and one London television appearance, just about Judy's last live performance of "Over the Rainbow," and the television soundtracks. And though it's true that, at 30 minutes, the accompanying video is an hors d'oeuvre, remember that the full meal is promised. Those wanting a grasp of the complete Judy Garland saga will find it in this set, told only in the best recordings, succinctly yet knowledgeably chosen. ▼

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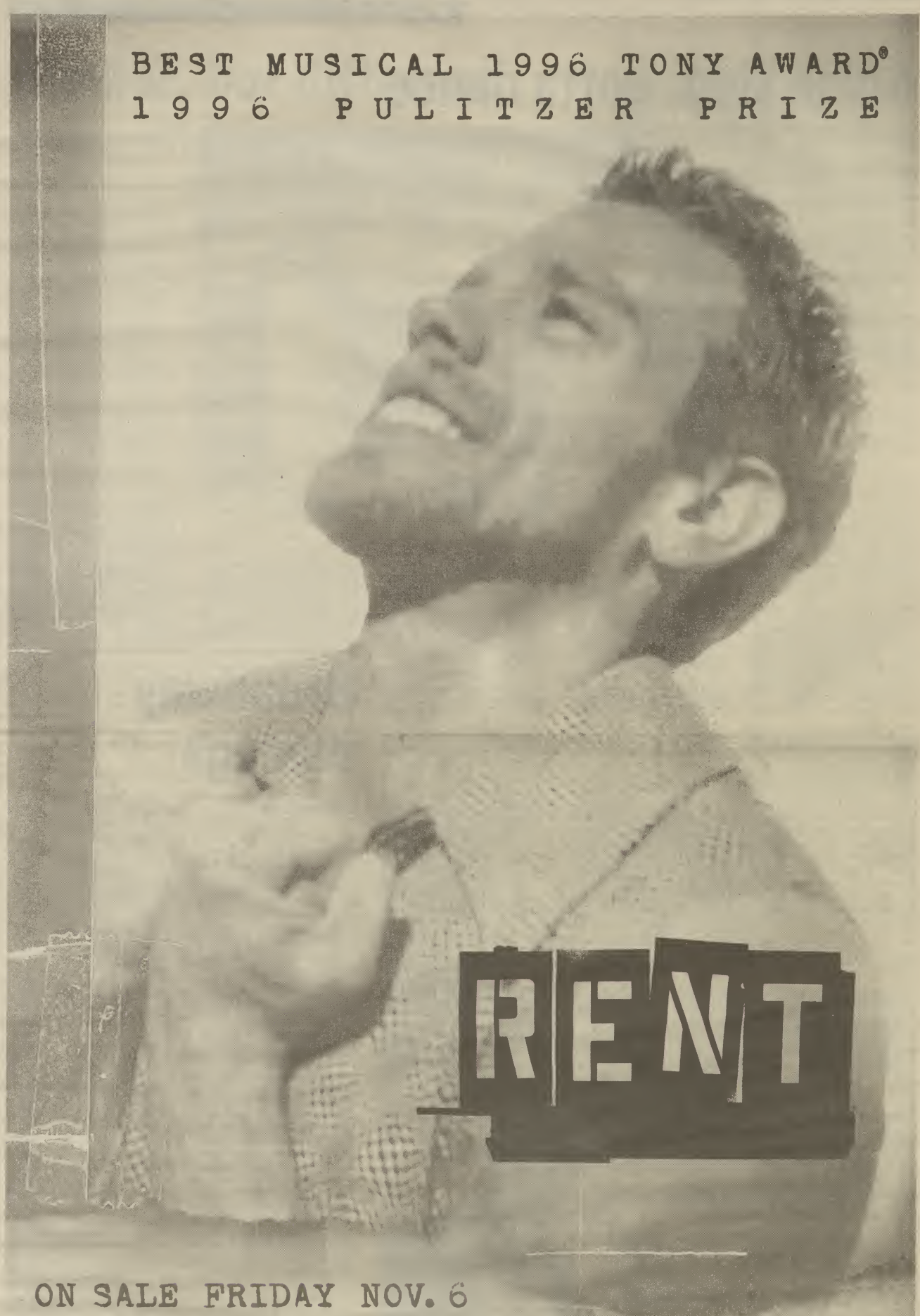
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# Gotta sing, gotta dance

by Dan Blue

*Coming Up Roses: The Broadway Musical in the 1950s* by Ethan Mordden; Oxford University Press, \$30

Once upon a time, there was no rock 'n' roll. All America (all white America, at least) sang the same songs, and most of these came out of New York. Rock was a novelty, jazz a minority taste, and country music lower-class. The original cast album of *My Fair Lady* outsold all other records, and Leonard Bernstein could declare on national TV that Americans discussed Broadway shows "with a passion otherwise reserved for elections and the Dodgers." Artistic triumph lay just around the corner. "All we need is for our Mozart to come along."

This delirium of hope and ambition was founded on reasonable expectations, for the musical was mutating in ways clearly superior to older forms. As Ethan Mordden notes in his history, *Coming Up Roses: The Broadway Musical in the 1950s*, Rodgers and Hammerstein had already inspired a revolution by reversing the primacy of music and book. Previously, the story had been an excuse to present songs. Now, the music grew out of the story in a kind of inspired italics, an overflow when words didn't seem enough. A new form of theater had been invented, and the term "musical play" was coined.

Like any other era, the fifties were happy to settle for light-hearted musical comedies (*The Pajama Game*, *Damn Yankees*) which merely sought to entertain. But the R&H model was there, a new toy to play with, and a shining promise of musical legitimacy. "Musical comedy wanted to behave like the musical play," Mordden explains, "because there lay the drama, the depth, the almost spooky new power that the musical had discovered in itself. No wonder the overtures were like symphonies of triumph: the musical had gone to bed as pop and



Pat Stanley (on floor) in the "Lady-in-Waiting" ballet from *Goldilocks*

awakened as art."

This new sense of music integrity was reinforced by the arrival of the original cast album—first on 78s, then decisively with the long-playing record. Audiences across the country were no longer hearing songs piecemeal but as elements in a total score. Inevitably, the LP deepened Broadway's sense of history and tradition. Revivalists could listen to earlier stagings. Aficionados could compare Ethel Merman's performance of *Rose* with those of Angela Lansbury or Tyne Daly.

## Creative mayhem

Given the sheer quantity of musicals produced during this decade (15 in the '49-'50 season alone), most writers would have trouble separating the forest from trees. In *Coming Up Roses*, Mordden analyzes more than sixty productions, some in a page, others at chapter length. With effortless erudition, he offers anecdotes,

harmonic analyses, and tales of creative mayhem. (His tales of Ethel Merman alone are worth the price of the book.) Yet the stress is less on backstage nitty-gritty—who threw tantrums and what got cut—than on how musicals fit and advanced a form.

Mordden spends lots of attention on star vehicles, which were big in the fifties and could cut either way. Can we imagine *Call Me Madam* without Ethel Merman? Yet *The Sound of Music* endured countless productions without Mary Martin. Choreography was on the rise, and he plots its progress from *Gypsy* and *Dolls* to *Redhead*. He recognizes the slow death of operetta (*Kismet* was its last gasp) and the extinction of the revue. (Arguably it was killed off by TV. The television variety hour was nothing but revues.)

He doesn't shrink from controversy. *Candide*, he claims, was best served by its original incarnation. Subsequent revisions have

only watered it down. Paradoxically, he contends that a major source of *My Fair Lady*'s appeal lay in its "weirdness." He also suggests that *West Side Story* and *Gypsy* present special cases, pre-

saging trends which would not flower for another ten years.

No decade is self-contained, and much of this book's resonance comes from eras which are scarcely mentioned: Kern in the thirties, Rodgers and Hammerstein in the forties, and Stephen Sondheim in the decades to come. *Coming Up Roses* is superb on its own terms, but it's frustrating not to have companion volumes so we can survey the larger picture. Mordden, who has written nearly two dozen books on musical theater, has already published a book on the twenties (*Make Believe*), and we can only assume that he is at work producing studies of other eras.

For, as he hints in his final chapter, Broadway in the fifties was dancing towards disaster. In the space of a single decade, rock and its siblings would demote the Great White Way to a specialty, faintly retro taste. Ten years after *My Fair Lady* the best-selling album was *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, and if a Mozart had arrived (at least of the kind envisioned by Bernstein), the general public would no longer have cared. "The music was changing, to a form that Broadway could not use. Could not sing, could not dance to." A new kind of musical theater would have to be invented. ▼

## Broadway damage

by Gregg Shapiro

In the October 1998 issue of *Out*, regular contributor Michael Musto wrote what can best be described as "Confessions of a Broadway Queen." As he put it, "Broadway lust is so in my blood that my very corpuscles dance down stairways...I have more *Playbills* than books." This column is for Musto, and anyone else who finds themselves with a similar condition.

First we have the 1998 cast recording of *The Wizard of Oz* (TVT) with Eartha Kitt (as Alмира Gulch/Wicked Witch of the West) and Mickey Rooney (as Professor Marvel/The Wizard of Oz). The current stage version of *The Wizard of Oz* more closely resembles the MGM movie musical version than the original stage production of the play from 1902. All the songs you know and love from the movie you know and love are here, including snippets of dialogue that will also ring (Ding Dong) a bell. Does anyone else find it ironic that the young woman who plays Dorothy Gale from Kansas (Jessica Grove) has the same initials as Judy Garland? Let's hope her fate is somewhat different from the tragic one of Ms. Garland.

The two-disc *Ultimate Broadway* (Arista) set covers more than fifty years of, well, ultimate Broadway, beginning with *Oklahoma!* (1943) and ending with *Rent* (1996). For the most part, this is an impressive collection. I just wondered why some of the songs here are in versions other than the ones from the cast recordings. Not that there's really anything wrong with Judy Collins' cover of "Send

In The Clowns" (from *A Little Night Music*), Liza Minnelli's movie soundtrack version of "Cabaret," or Aretha Franklin's take on "I Dreamed A Dream" (from *Les Miserables*), to name a few. It's just that an album that claims to be the "ultimate" should at least try to live up to its name.

Taking the "original cast recording" experience to the next level, the folks at Columbia Records have been busy improving on previously released (on compact disc) original cast recordings by adding bonus cuts, thereby expanding the originals, sometimes by as many as eleven tracks.

Sometimes it's just a basic case of vault-raiding, as with *West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music* and *On The Town* (Columbia/Sony Classical/Legacy), where the bonus tracks are derived from material that was already available to the public. For example, the bonus tracks on *West Side Story* and *On The Town* were taken from symphonic releases by Leonard Bernstein, and amount to instrumental "dance" versions of songs from both shows.

I like to think that the "bonus track" experience should feel like one. On *Annie* (Columbia/Sony Classical/Legacy), the eleven bonus tracks are from a recording made of "Martin Charnin and Charles Strouse with their first draft of *Annie* for backer's auditions, circa 1972." It's a fascinating and educational listening experience, including songs that never made it into the show.

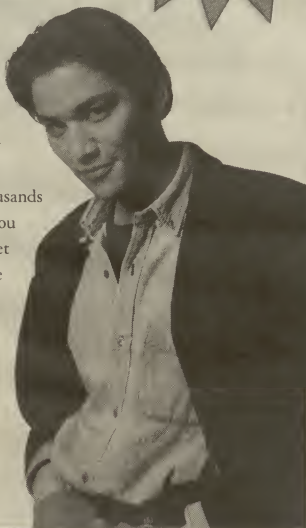
Speaking of bonuses, here's a trivia bonus. Martin Charnin, who wrote the lyrics for *Annie*, played Big Deal in *West Side Story* on Broadway. ▼

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## INTERVIEW

# Similar, but different

## Interview with author Michael Lowenthal

by David Lamble

In Michael Lowenthal's first novel *The Same Embrace*, Jacob, a twenty-four year old Jewish gay man, is being bound up in leather by his identical twin brother Jonathan. Emotionally estranged since an incestuous rooftop encounter at age twelve, Jacob and Jonathan have separately pursued the twin obsessions of our era, uninhibited sex and its dark twin, orthodox religion. Jacob has been dispatched by his non-observant parents to rescue Jonathan from what they consider the orthodox Jewish equivalent of a Moonie cult. Once in Jerusalem, though, shadowed by the Western Wall, Jacob rediscovers physical and spiritual ties to his twin that are stronger and yet more painful than any other relationship in his life. Jacob contemplates a social sexual union with his brother that Jonathan can only reciprocate through the orthodox ceremony of laying *tefillin*. As Jonathan wraps Jacob in the leather straps that every observant Jewish man is supposed to don daily, Jacob flashes back on his most significant male bondings, in search of some ultimate clue to the ties that bind him to men.

"Jacob enjoyed his brother's firm but gentle touch, the easy pressure of his fingers. It made him think of Yoni, the flight attendant, the soft brush of his hand on Jacob's thigh. He thought also of handling Marty near the end, rubbing moisturizer onto his friend's emaciated ribs. These were all the same caress, he thought, the same vulnerable laying of one man's fingers on another. Surely Jonathan could understand that. Surely he understood that his embrace now, tangled in leather, added to a single, larger embrace."

*The Same Embrace* is the debut novel of a writer who has for the better part of this decade sat astride another literary throne, that of the late gay porn guru John Preston. In 1994, Michael Lowenthal assumed editorship of Preston's *Flesh and the Word* series, gay erotic confessionals by smart writers who could simultaneously keep dicks hard with minds still engaged. Lowenthal's first novel has kept faith with the spirit of *Flesh and the Word* while at the same time creating a heartfelt portrait of the sometime parallel worlds of gay liberation and Jewish orthodoxy. In Jacob Rosenbaum, Lowenthal has created a complicated creature who yearns to be more gay, more Jewish, more alive than he feels himself to be in this post-modern, post-AIDS, post-Holocaust, post-everything time in which hardly anybody feels what they think they ought to feel—that is, if they feel anything at all.

### Sex in the womb

Lowenthal creates a complicated structure of dualities throughout the novel, beginning with the twin brothers, born sixteen minutes apart. In a recent interview, the writer explains that he became fascinated by the research he did for the book indicating that many identical twins all but had sex in the womb and are forever haunted by a sense of incompleteness whenever their birthmate is ab-

sent. At one point in the novel, Jonathan confesses to Jacob how shattered he felt when he realized that they didn't possess identical fingerprints. Later on the rooftop of their grandparents' Cape Cod summer home, Jacob has a moment of anxiety when he sees that their dicks are also not exactly the same.

"Jacob pushed his dick down so it poked straight at Jonathan. Jonathan did the same. Their dicks were parallel, an equals sign of flesh."

"They're the same length," Jacob said.

"Yeah, but yours is curved," Jonathan pointed with his chin.

Jacob had worried Jonathan would notice this. The deformity got worse every time he checked. "It's not that much," he said.

Jonathan giggled, "I bet it's from playing with yourself too much."

Lowenthal is particularly effective at demonstrating parallel examples of the missing generation in both the gay and Jewish sides of Jacob's life. His trip to Jerusalem is motivated not only by a desire to reunite with his brother, but also by an urge to escape the ever-present memories of the death from AIDS of his close friend Marty. Lowenthal points out that Jacob's estrangement from the gay community is very similar to his father's feeling that he's not a real Jew because he is as incompetent at the laying of the *tefillin* as Jacob is at casual sex.

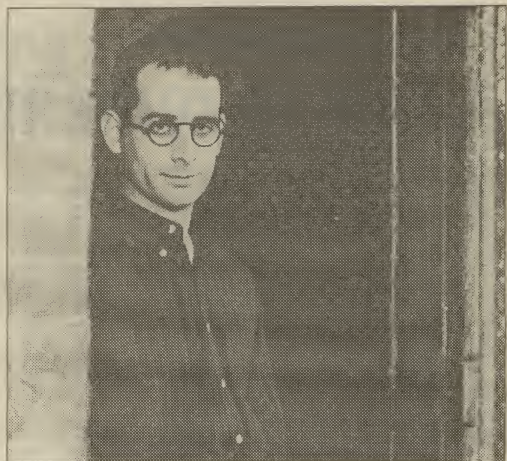
During our talk, Lowenthal adds, "Jacob says he always had this fantasy that when he came out he would suddenly be surrounded by a loving community that solved all his problems. Well, of course, his problems are still there... I hope that that's just a way of drawing a connection between him and his father...everyone is dealing with this balance of belonging and alienation, and the choices you make for your own independence and freedom inevitably push you away from some of the very things that you are seeking."

Lowenthal makes *The Same Embrace*'s handful of erotic episodes count powerfully towards realizing the novel's strong underlying metaphors. While visiting his brother at the orthodox yeshiva in Jerusalem, Jacob has a potentially unsafe but potent sexual encounter with his brother's best friend, thus combining a hint of incest with the notion that sexuality and spirituality can be kissing cousins. Lowenthal explains that "for me, it was an important way for Jacob to see if he could combine the gayness and Jewishness within himself. He says that he knows he can't feel the kind of spiritual fervor within himself that his brother feels, but he's always fantasized that he could literally be physically inside somebody who does feel that spirituality and maybe feel a part of it—some kind of transcendental property."

Perhaps the most disturbing episode in the novel is Jacob's tryst with a young German who begs for an adult circumcision as a way to atone for the sins of the Holocaust. Lowenthal concedes that this chapter is meant to evoke some of the most unsettling shards of recent history. "That past of the Holocaust and the German/Jewish experience is so

present in his family and yet so absent, because nobody will ever speak of it. It's this silent shadow hanging over him. Halfway through the sexual encounter with the German, he realizes what's going on and suddenly faces all these mixed emotions and shame. He's mad at the German for insisting that this, what in some sense is ancient history, be part of their connection. He's also mad at himself for not having realized that of course it has to be part of their connection. I think a lot of people try to work things out through sex and would be much better off to work them out through talking or therapy. It places a burden on sex, which ends up being somewhat of a disaster."

And when Jacob does finally connect with another man in a healthy way, he's criticized by a lesbian friend for hooking up with a 17-year-old Irish kid he meets at a dance—a relationship that smacks too much of pedophilia for some. Lowenthal, who had great fun with this topic in his story "Are You A Pedophile?" argues that the relationship is healthy because for once the sex is just about sex and not about settling ancient scores. "Danny is only 17, but in some ways he is as mature as Jacob. Danny, probably because of the generational difference, seems to have come out with no guilt. He's one of those great totally out-



Author Michael Lowenthal

front kids we have today."

Finally, on Jacob and Jonathan's moonlight jackoff session on their grandparents' roof, Lowenthal says, "That's obviously a significant event for Jacob, but they never talk about it in the book. I hope it serves to provide tension. Does Jonathan remember what they did when they were twelve? If so, how does he deal with it, because now that he's orthodox, it's a big no-no. And again it's partly an emotional and partly a sexual thing. At one point, Jacob talks about thinking they're the same brain just in two separate bodies. But in other ways he very interested in his brother's body—the differences and the similarities."

In *The Same Embrace*, Michael Lowenthal attempts the great gay

novel whose narrative arch encompasses virtually every important issue affecting gays and Jews in the 20th century. At the same time, Lowenthal reaches to craft a novel so intensely personal that it sleeps with a lifetime of taboo fantasies—the search for the perfect lover who is father, brother and self. All this from a young writer whose image and talent bear a striking resemblance to a younger and not yet cynical Philip Roth. ▼

Michael Lowenthal will talk to David Lamble at Noon on KALX, 90.7 FM, Monday, November 9; and will read from *The Same Embrace* at A Different Light at 7:30 p.m. that evening.

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## Literary miscellany

## A fair to remember

by Deborah Peifer

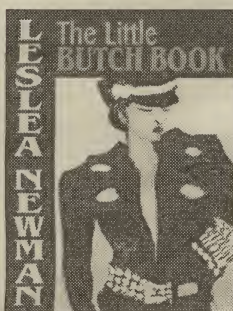
**B**ook Fair week! Hurrah! This is the week that San Francisco readers look forward to all year. November 7 and 8 is the Bay Area Book Festival proper, with hundreds of writers, publishers, and readers, all gathered to celebrate and cogitate about the written word. Lots of queer folk will be reading, discussing, and otherwise hanging out, which means this is your chance to tell Joan Nestle, Sarah Schulman, Justin Chin, Lillian Faderman, Brian Bouldrey and many others just how much you like their work.

The main event is at the Concourse Exhibition Center, 7th & 8th Sts. at Brannan, but A Different Light Bookstore offers special queer events at the store as well.

On November 6 at 7:30 p.m., Michael Lassell, Jim Arnold, Tom Bacchus, and Doug Harrison read from *Contra/Dictions: New Queer Male Fiction* (Arsenal Pulp). If you just can't get enough Hollywood gossip, Frank Castelluccio and Alvin Walker discuss *The Other Side of Ethel Mertz*, and David Ehrenstein reveals the *Open Secret: Gay Hollywood 1928-1996*, on November 7 at 2 p.m.

I'll admit to being somewhat skeptical when I read the press release for *To Be Continued...* (edited by Michele Karlsberg and Karen X. Tulchinsky; Firebrand, \$11.95), a collection of short stories designed to be finished next year in *TBC: Take Two*. What can I say, sequels make me cranky. My displeasure dissolved as I luxuriated in these very fine pieces, however, because each piece

stands alone, even as every one made me long for more. Several of the writers in this anthology, including Nisa Donnelly, Jess Wells, Jewelle Gomez, Lucy Jane Bledsoe and Carla Trujillo, will be reading at ADL on November 7 at 7:30 p.m. Pick up a schedule of Book Fest festivities at ADL, and I'll see you at the Fair.



## Get stuffed

It must be winter holiday shopping time — after all, Costco has had Christmas decorations up for a month already. If you are someone who does holiday giving, and are already worried about gifts in the “stocking stuffer” category, several new books offer a myriad of readerly delights. Leslea Newman — novelist, poet, editor, and fantastic femme — celebrates her love of things butch with *The Little Butch Book* (New Victoria, \$10), a collection of poems about butches that is comical, sexy, and great fun to read. I especially enjoyed “The Alpha-Butch Song” (“Wishful butch too shy to call/X-ray butch who’s seen it all”).

Several of the poems borrow from, and improve upon, classic models, but you can just enjoy the obvious delight Newman feels because the world is full of butches to love.

I'm from Chicago, and in Chicago all apartment leases expire on either the 1st of May or the 1st of October. That means on one day just about everyone in the city is moving, which means boxes are scarce, U-Hauls rare, and friends are unavailable for moving duties. I mention this because Alison Bechdel's latest, *Split-Level Dykes To Watch Out For*, includes a long piece in which all of the dykes, and their friends and relations, move on one horrific day, and the whole thing made me laugh so hard I seriously annoyed not only my cat, but my neighbors. Bechdel's always been better than anyone at capturing our foibles with both wit and affection, but “Demographic Rift” stands alone as one seriously hilarious piece of writing and cartooning. Be sure to buy one for yourself, too.

Maybe you don't think about toilets a lot, but Anne Anderson does, and to prove it, she painted toilets as 25 great artists might have, but didn't. *Heads of the Masters* (Papier-Mache, \$6.95) is more than mere bathroom art, however, because it provides a light-hearted review of the styles of masters from Georgia O'Keeffe to Marc Chagall. Just the thing to pass a little private time.

## Seal of approval

When Seal Press announced that it was getting out of publish-

ing fiction, readers everywhere considered that falling on a sword was a viable option in a world without the high quality writing of Seal's fiction writers. Good news, of a sort, arrives from Seattle as Seal launches a new imprint, Djuna Books, which features re-releases of classic lesbian fiction.

According to Editorial Assistant Kate Loeb, Seal will also publish one new novel every year, but the focus of the Press will be on nonfiction. Djuna starts out very impressively, with new editions of Edith Forbes' astonishing first novel, *Alma Rose*, and Lambda Award winner *The Dyke and the Dybbuk* by Ellen Galford. Both sell for \$12, and are well worth your treasure and your time. Do yourself a big favor and support this new imprint, if only to convince Seal that we'd love them to publish more fiction.

## Making a list

Work on *Checklist*, Margaret Gillon's G/L/B/T bibliography, continues apace, with more than 5,000 titles tabulated so far. Check out the listings at [oddsirlspress.com](http://oddsirlspress.com) and be amazed at the breadth and depth of our writings. Who knew there were so many books about us? ▼

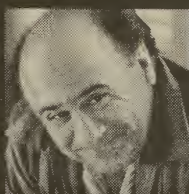
If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to [peiferd@aol.com](mailto:peiferd@aol.com), or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

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Hunter gives a **DARING**, funny performance. Queen Latifah is an amazing screen presence. DeVito gives the most subtle, touching performance of his career. LaGravenese dramatizes nuances most filmmakers wouldn't even think to try.”  
—David Ansen, **NEWSWEEK**



“DeVito is simply and consistently one of the most original talents we have in movies whether he's behind the camera or in front of it. Two delighted thumbs up for ‘Living Out Loud,’ with its **WONDERFUL** rapport between Danny DeVito and Holly Hunter, and its surprising supporting performance by Queen Latifah.”  
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“‘Living Out Loud’ is a film of eccentric **CHARM** that knows its way around relationships.”  
—Kenneth Turan, **LOS ANGELES TIMES**

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“LaGravenese has fashioned a **SUPERB** comedy. DeVito winds the clock of his gift to full strength, while Hunter has not had a role this lush since ‘The Piano.’”  
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“Hunter and DeVito give touchingly nuanced performances, and Latifah proves that her **RAVES** for ‘Set It Off’ were no fluke by stealing every scene she’s in.”  
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New Work



Image: Julia Scher, a video still from *Predictive Engineering*, 1998 (courtesy of the artist)

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## BOOKS

# Rebecca Brown perseveres

In the dog-eat-dog publishing world

by Lisa Meyer

In her writing studio, Rebecca Brown has a secret room. It is a small attic, where she keeps a futon and several boxes filled with old manuscripts.

"It's like a little nun cell," she says, and climbs a ladder into it.

Sometimes she sleeps in here, letting her unconscious work through what her conscious mind is trying to capture in words.

Below, in another room, two stained glass windows capture images of Catholic saints. Surrounding her wooden writing desk are crucifixes, a bust of Abraham Lincoln, a framed picture of Kurt Cobain, and an inflatable rendition of Edward Munch's painting, "The Scream." These items represent a few of the stories that make up our culture. They do not provide inspiration. Rebecca Brown does not believe in artistic inspiration. Instead, she writes toward and from a faith in the process itself.

"Just as the act of contemplation or prayer is important in and of itself, even if it does not produce anything, even if it's directed to an unacknowledged legislature," she says, "so is the process of writing."

This fall, Rebecca Brown has seen her new novel, *The Dogs*, arrive on bookshelves. A year ago, HarperCollins canceled her contract, along with 104 others, in a cost-cutting move that epitomizes the publishing industry's doldrums. Now she has returned to a former publisher, a small press, City Lights. As more and more editors at commercial publishing houses respond to public demand, rather than try to shape it by making their own aesthetic judgments, serious writers of literary and experimental fiction such as Rebecca Brown are forced to turn to small presses.

"It's not so much a victory as survival," she says, referring to her switch to City Lights after having published two collections of stories with HarperCollins. "Serious literary and experimental fiction occupies a very tiny place in our culture."

When Bob Sharrard, a senior editor at City Lights, learned that HarperCollins canceled Brown's contract, he immediately arranged to publish *The Dogs*. "It's more of an instance of independent publishers filling a void that's been left by the failure of corporate publishing to publish vanguard literature," he says.

## Under a moody sky

Brown's studio is tucked behind a small light blue house in Seattle, Washington, where she lives with her partner, and it is under this moody Northwestern sky, a mix of coursing rain clouds and blinding sunshine, that Rebecca Brown writes parables of the human psyche. Her stories are complex puzzles that create images of the way we function in modern life. She lives on the edge of our country just as she exists on the periphery of the literary world.

Is that so bad? she wonders.

"Much of the history of innovative arts is the art of outsiders," she says. "It's Stein. It's Genet. People who look critically at how things are and write from their anxiety about it or their desire to



Rebecca Brown

change it, not knowing how to fit into it."

Brown is a lesbian feminist who translates one of our main cultural narratives — the Christian story of suffering, death and resurrection — into secular contexts. She hollows out that old story and fills it with new meanings. In fact, her entire corpus to date can be seen as a Bildungsroman that resurrects a repressed part of her narrator. Her work substantiates Freud's notion that civilization is repression. Like Freud, she believes that people need to ignore parts of themselves in order to live in society. In settings that are a mix of both the medieval and the modern eras, Brown gives us parables that suggest that the past is inextricably linked to the present, and that private and public histories are intertwined.

"The bulk of mainstream and midlist American fiction," she says, "is social realist narratives about contemporary issues — which is fine. [But] that's not what I'm doing ... I couldn't write a straightforward Richard Fordesque novel if you did pay me a half million dollars. It's hard to imagine."

Most people like to see their own lives reflected, she says, acknowledging that her work is a hard sell. "And as a lesbian, I'm a member of 10%."

So Brown thinks of herself as a poet, rather than as a fiction writer. "Poets never expect to be read," she says. "They never expect to make money. They never expect to be called upon to be art stars."

And, like a poet, she counts the beats to each one of her lines.

Rebecca Brown has won the 1995 Washington State Governor's Art Award, the 1995 Boston Book Review Fiction Award, the 1995 Lambda Literary Award, and the 1994 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award for *The Gifts of the Body*. She also has received honors for *Annie Oakley's Girl*, *The Terrible Girls*, and *The Children's Crusade*. She has earned every award. In 1994, she was first published in England, because no one would take her work in the United States. Then she published five books in the United States before she found a literary agent. At 42, she has yet to receive a grant. But she keeps on, like so many of her characters who perform monotonous acts that they can never finish or understand.

"[Writing] is very much about the process of inquiry," she says. "It's just this constant effort fueled by despair and faith. Or desperation and hope."

## After cancellation

After HarperCollins canceled her contract, Brown received numerous letters from fans who said that they would read her wherever she was published.

"Rebecca has a very loyal audience and a fairly wide readership," City Lights' Sharrard says. "In terms of sales, it will be our most successful title this season."

Brown's experience with HarperCollins has forced her to see the importance of small communities. Small presses are more interested in literature than in commerce, Brown says. They may have less money to spend on advances and publicity, she adds, but small press editors believe that their titles are meant to last. So they keep the books in print. Brown is still making money on books that City Lights published years ago.

Brown is an integral part of a lively literary community. She writes essays and reviews for the weekly periodical *The Stranger*. She attends and organizes readings of local authors. Among the many places she has taught are the University of Washington extension division and the Richard Hugo house, a privately funded, non-profit writing center.

On a small stage in a rundown tavern, she sits on a wooden stool in front of a microphone and a room full of her fans, with a copy of *The Dogs* in her hand. One of

its chapters, "The Hammer," could be read as a parody of the publishing industry. The dogs that have invaded the narrator's life read "from the collected barks of some over-rated, pretty-faced and much-luckier-dog-than-I-am dog." The narrator feels estranged from this species that is different and does not speak her language. The dogs are more advantaged, and they feel morally superior. The narrator has no control over her life.

"Oh my god,"

Brown says softly.

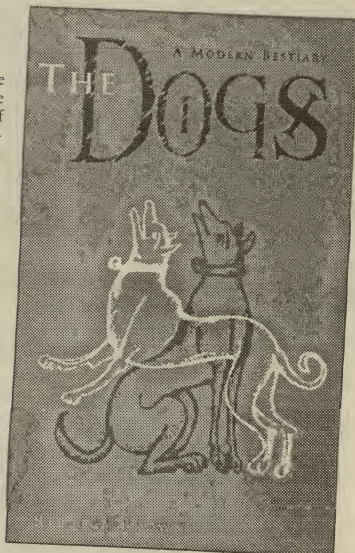
Then she laughs. "That's a good interpretation. But, in fact, I wrote that piece five years ago. Perhaps it was a prescient viewing of the situation at HarperCollins."

Over the past 10 years, while she was writing *The Dogs*, Brown made cut-and-paste collages. She wanted to take her mind away from words and focus on images. The collages are a mix of typed and handwritten texts and drawings and photos of different kinds of dogs.

In one collage, she has pasted

the image of a crucified female dog giving birth to a bespectacled, sandy-haired being, which is herself. The dog's heart is large and attached precariously to the outside of her chest. Directly in the middle of the heart, Brown has taped the typed words "Remove Carefully."

This collage joins the kitsch that fills Rebecca Brown's writing studio. It hangs just above her wooden desk and just below her secret room. ▼



You're among friends.

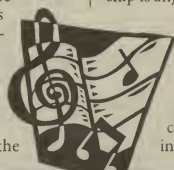
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# The little school that could

by Tim Pfaff

**S**an Rafael's Ali Akbar College of Music has enriched Bay Area music life out of all proportion to its modest size and more modest budget. The school, which has had more addresses than Patty Hearst with nothing like her financial resources, has amplified its teaching mission (and to a lesser extent its income) by presenting its more distinguished teachers in generous concert series. It does so because it can. The school's founder and namesake, Ali Akbar Khan ("Khansahib" to all who know him), is the world's premiere exponent of North



## Notes From All Over

Indian classical music, and the best of his countrymen accept invitations to teach at his American school both because of the prestige and because he's the master. They come as much to learn as to teach and play.

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the College hosted a *Spirit of India* festival at the Palace of Fine Arts two weekends ago that was, appropriately and at long last, a blow-out of a celebration. Every Indian musician I have come to love over the years was on hand, flanked by colleagues whose work I was only too glad to encounter.

After Khansahib himself, the

musician who has most consistently thrilled me over the years is Lakshmi Shankar, the sister-in-law of Ravi Shankar and herself an artist of such integrity and devotion (say nothing of chops) that when polio put an early end to her career as a Bharatanatyam dancer, she went on to become one of her culture's greatest singers. I've heard her probably a dozen times, fearing each was the last — not because her musicianship is anything short of timeless, but because voices wear out, and Lakshmi is pushing her seventh decade.

No one bothered to tell that to her vocal chords, or her staggeringly rich musical imagination. Her 90-minute set included a piece each from the principal categories of khyal (a fully developed improvisation on one of the traditional ragas, this one approaching an hour in rigorous yet passionate unfolding), thurmi (love song), and bhajan (devotional hymn). In all, her consummate technique — a pinpoint sense of pitch that gives her the freedom to play with it and a taste for the most complicated rhythms — abetted one of the most beautiful voices in the business (still, to these ears, completely undiminished by age) in some of the most concentrated, ecstatic, and elevating music-making to be heard by a living singer. Through-

out, she was joined by Ramesh Mishra, a master of the sarangi, a complex, bowed stringed instrument of a decidedly vocal cast, who in best Indian practice both supported and encouraged this remarkable singer.



Swapan Chaudhuri, Ali Akbar Khan, and Alam Khan (front row, l to r) in the *Spirit of India* festival

out, she was joined by Ramesh Mishra, a master of the sarangi, a complex, bowed stringed instrument of a decidedly vocal cast, who in best Indian practice both supported and encouraged this remarkable singer.

## Cult music

In the short span of two days, the festival managed to represent the amazing variety of Indian musical traditions and styles. The

Ghazal Ensemble gave an impressive display of the kind of music the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan brought to cult status in the West. Foremost among the proponents of Carnatic, or South Indian, music were the entrancing violinist Viji Krishnan-Natarajan and Vinod R. Venkataraman, master of the mridangam, the South Indian equivalent of the tabla.

Zakir Hussain, the son of Ravi Shankar's tabla player Alla Rakha (the teacher, directly or indirectly, of the whole next generation of tabla players), made his first appearance at the helm of his group, The Rhythm Experience, a serious phalanx of tabla players and other drummers who put the daunting complexities of Indian rhythms on spellbinding display. This opening concert of the festival epitomized the interaction of teacher and student at the heart of the Indian music experience. It ended with a jam with saxophonist George Brooks, whose new work Hussain will accompany in a San Francisco Jazz Festival concert, "Asian Concepts in Jazz," at the Herbst Theatre on Saturday, November 7 at 8 p.m.

Hussain reappeared the same evening with Aashish Khan, Khansahib's eldest sarod-playing son. I've always found this highly regarded musician's playing puzzling, and I did again, but Rajeev Taranath (playing with the fine young sitarist Partha Chatterjee)

ably represented the next generation of sarod artists schooled by Khansahib.

The final concert, featuring Khansahib and his matchless tabla player Swapan Chaudhuri, opened with a towering, hour-plus journey through an ancient raga (fittingly, the festival players seemed to gravitate to the tradition's oldest music) and closed with a moving enactment of the transmission of this special music. The final piece featured an improvisation on raga Zila Kafi that included a fixed composition by Khansahib's own father, Allaudin Khan — the teacher of all teachers in this century — in which Khansahib was joined by his 16-year-old son Alam in the highly gifted teenager's public debut. The experience of hearing sublime music across three generations brought the crowd to a fever pitch.

At a time when much of the Bay Area's music scene seems in a downturn, the strength of this ancient yet very much alive musical tradition is a gift we ignore at our peril. The final concert of *The Spirit of India* will take place Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Asian Art Museum, with Steven Oda, a Japanese-Canadian sarod student of both Aashish and Ali Akbar Khan, performing with tabla player Ravi Gutala and the Bay Area's own wonderful tabla ensemble, Tabla Rasa. ▼

Steven Brock

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# Don Abstraction

## San Francisco Opera mars Verdi

by Paul Thomason

The San Francisco Opera's new production of Verdi's *Don Carlo* is so lacking on every level that one can only weep. It is the sixth opera of the current season, and the third disaster. Like *Turandot* and *Tristan* earlier this season, *Don Carlo*, at least at its second performance on October 27, descended into the pits of provincialism which would have made an opera company in Reno or Knoxville blush. That this describes fully one half of the season so far by the once great San Francisco Opera is almost beyond comprehension.

Only James Morris as King Philip II of Spain gave a performance that was truly worthy of his role. In much better vocal shape than during last year's opening *Flying Dutchman*, Morris simply was Philip, dominating the stage in every way. In the best of all possible worlds, he would not have been allowed to stretch his great aria, "Ella giamai m'amo" so that it took up almost as much time as Act II of Wagner's *Siegfried*, but at least with Morris one could always fall back into simply reveling in his sumptuous voice.

This could not be said about any of the rest of the cast. Ironically, it was during Rodrigo's death scene that Anthony Michaels-Moore finally woke up and became involved. During his final five minutes, Michaels-Moore showed he understood how to use portamenti to mold phrases and use Italian words to shape the drama. If he had done that all evening, his performance would have been on the level of Morris'. The part of Rodrigo's bosom buddy, Don Carlo, was assumed by Sergei Larin, who sang and acted like a peasant, rather than the prince Don Carlo is. He did, however, sing on pitch much of the time, which is more than can be said of any of the ladies on stage.

One wonders if anyone on the artistic or musical staff had actually attended a performance by either Nina Rautio or Markella Hatziano before hiring them to

make their SFO debuts as Elisabetta and Princess Eboli, respectively. Surely not. Rautio does generate a certain amount of crude excitement in pushing her voice to the extreme, rather like Elena Sulitsois did for about 18 months in the middle 1960s before totally destructing. But undertaking one of Verdi's most introspective, fragile heroines only magnified the lack of refinement (to put it mildly) in Rautio's singing. The voice is critically uneven, and her attempts to float soft passages at the top of the voice (which often had nothing to do with either the music or the emotional situation) failed every time. Singing at less than *forte* generally equaled singing off-pitch.

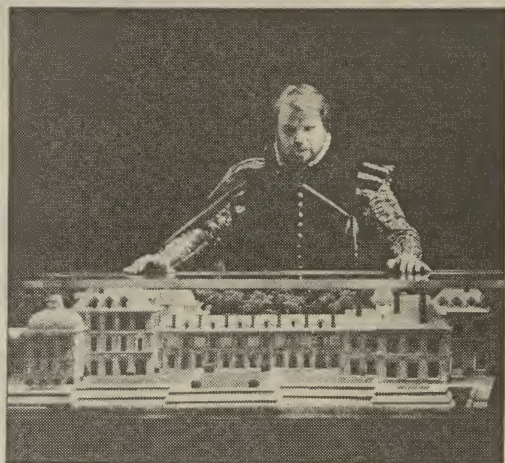
Hatziano's Eboli was so egregious the audience simply burst into laughter more than once. Her singing was of the Wolfgang Schmidt/Tristan school, i.e., simply unacceptable. One understands that, for some reason, a great Eboli like Dolara Zajick is no longer an option for the SFO, but what about Grace Bumbry, who is still singing superbly? Must one always reach for the bottom of the barrel? Victor von Halem's Grand Inquisitor made little impression, as did Cassandra Berthoin's U.S. debut as Tebaldo.

### Acoustic acoustic

Conductor Emmanuel Joel was understandably distracted by a family medical emergency, but *Don Carlo* needs much firmer direction than it received on this occasion. Singers were indulged to the point the score simply fell apart. In my sonically challenged seat next to the left wall of the auditorium, Verdi's rich orchestration became a concerto for bassoon, which was mildly amusing for a bit, but wore thin long before the evening's four and a half hours drew to a close. Was it the terrible acoustics under the overhang that made the amplified chimes and the Celestial Voice in the auto-de-fé scene so terribly metallic, and the off-stage band so inaudible? And is that, perhaps, why the usually superb SF Opera Chorus sounded weak and ragged all evening?

The new production by Emilio

Sagi (his debut), designed by Zack Brown, is sophomoric and pretentious. One only knows what is going on if one has read all the press materials ahead of time, which is unacceptable in the theater. So most of the audience had no idea what that model house is doing inside a glass vitrine, for instance. All evening, the stage uses more minimal black than Bloomington's designer showrooms used in the 1970s at the height of the Industrial Chic Period, though what that has to do with Spain or Verdi's *Don Carlo* is anyone's guess, since the sumptuous costumes (as much as one could see in the prevailing darkness on stage) were faithful to the 16th Century. If one is going to reduce *Don Carlo* to an abstract, minimalist essence, one had better have the greatest singing actors in



Sergei Larin and scale-model palace in *Don Carlo*

the world directed to within an inch of their lives. On this occasion, the stage direction was closer to Muni traffic control than to Wieland Wagner. ▼

*Don Carlo* continues at the War Memorial Opera House through November 14. For tickets and further information, call (415) 864-3330.

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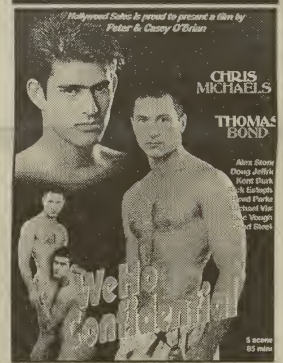
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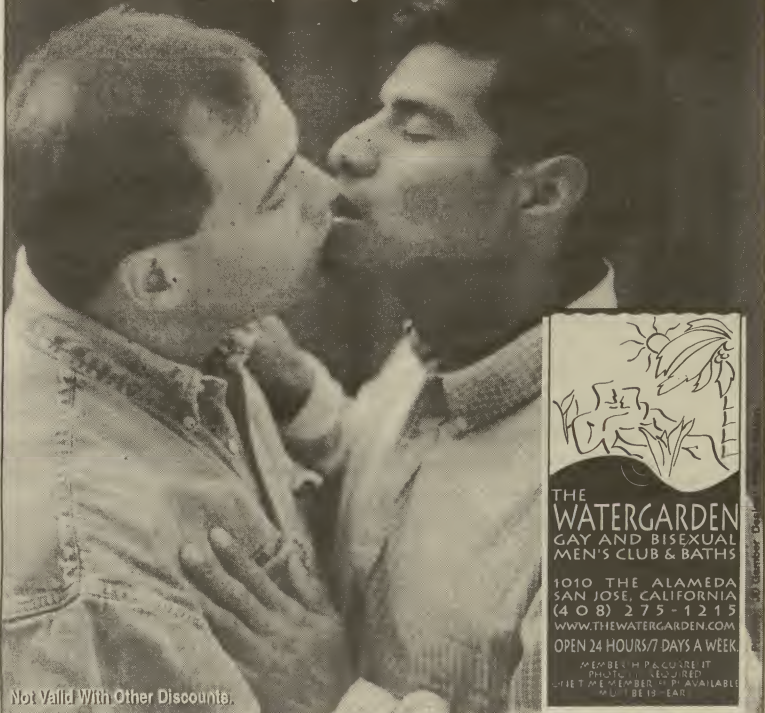
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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Josie's Ron Lanza

### Josie's best (and last)

Two months of nostalgia: that's what's in store for queer comedy and cabaret lovers from now till the end of the year as the venerable and much beloved Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint slowly exits stage left.

When Ron Lanza opened Josie's in 1990, he continued a tradition he had started in the mid-1970s, when he was administrator of the old Gay Community Center at 32 Page St., and expanded upon when he ran the old Valencia Rose cafe and cabaret on Valencia Street. Lanza had a penchant for spotting sharp talent, and undertook to showcase performers in casual settings where people could sip drinks while enjoying laughs and tears.

So it is with mixed joy and sadness that regular patrons greet the news that Lanza, in preparing to close shop permanently, will present the best of Josie's acts through the end of the year.

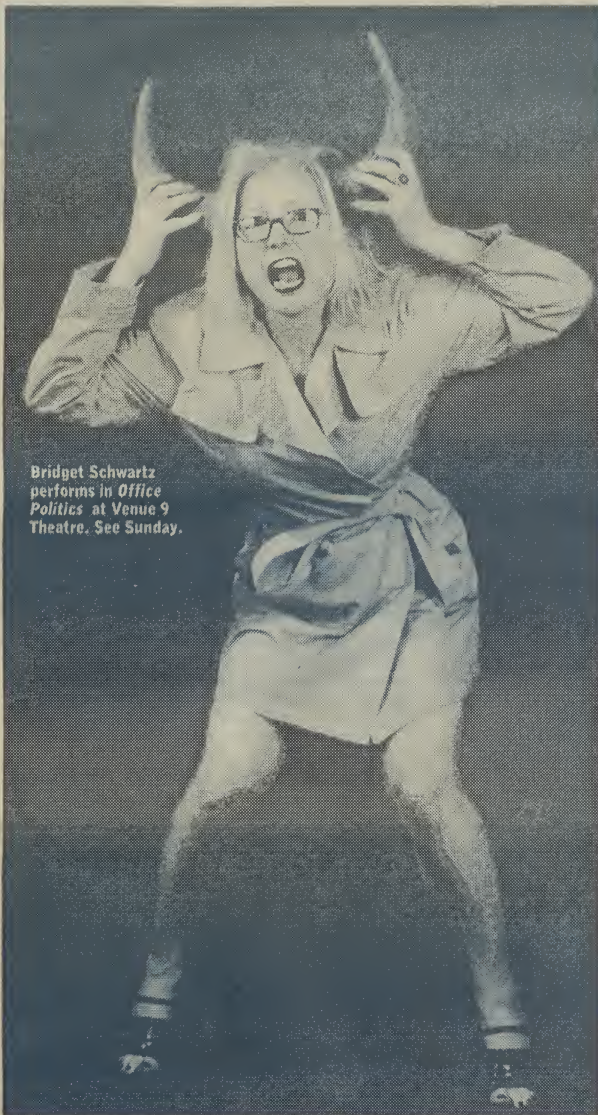
The stellar revue starts off with a thunderclap on Friday, November 6 with comedians **Suzy Berger**, **Lisa Geduldig**, and relative newcomer **Bob McIntyre**. Berger, a New Yorker who wrote for "Roseanne," is much in demand as a comic and emcee around the country, while Geduldig is heralded as creator of the all-Jewish Kung Pao Kosher Comedy Show, which got its start in a Chinese restaurant. The new kid on the block, McIntyre, graduated from Josie's Monday Open Mic Night to become a regular funny guy on weekends. Showtime is 8pm. Tickets are \$10.

On Saturday, November 7, two other regulars take to the boards for the early show (8pm, \$10): **Karen Ripley**, known for her relentlessly dead-pan style and improvisational skill, and **Bridget Schwartz**, who will deliver her trademark edgy humor, always outrageous.

Later that Saturday night (10pm, \$10), the comedy continues with Geduldig, **Page Hurwitz**, and **Elvira Kurt** playing to the bar-skipping crowd.

Then on Monday, November 9, up-and-coming talent will be put in the spotlight for one of the last several Gay Comedy Open Mic sets (8pm, \$5), hosted by Geduldig. For two hours, raw talents will test the waters, and, who knows? Some newcomer or other may be headed for stardom, though, alas, after New Years, they'll have to get their laughs at somewhere else, for Josie's will be no more. ▼

For reservations at Josie's, phone (415) 861-7933.



Bridget Schwartz performs in *Office Politics* at Venue 9 Theatre. See Sunday.

## Eri

### Intersection for the Arts

"Pieces of the Quilt: 3," seven new short plays on AIDS/HIV by Migdalia Cruz, Maria Irene Fornes, Rhodessa Jones, Greg Sarris, Herbert Siguenza, John Stepping and Erin Cressida Wilson, featuring live performance, song, music, deejaying and mixing by Sean San José, Josh Jones, Scheherazade Stone, and DJ Fuze (Digital Underground). Directed by Colman Domingo. Co-presented by the Alma Delfina Group. \$9-\$14 sliding. 8pm. Weekends (Fri-Sun) thru 11/15. 446 Valencia St. 626-3311.

### Peacock Lounge

"Everything Must Go," solo performer David Mill's last rant before moving to New York City. An evening of short pieces poking fun at everything from the ominous Y2K bug, homeless people, sex clubs, and Kevin Bacon. Directed by Danny Scheide. \$10. 8pm. Repeats 11/7. 552 Haight St. 621-1300.

**Victoria Theater**  
BOOK FEST EVENT: "A Tribute to Joan Nestle," cele-

brating Nestle's new book, *A Fragile Union* (Cleis Press). Hosted by Dorothy Allison, with Alison Bechdel, Katherine Forest, Jewelle Gomez and others. Co-sponsored by Women's Cancer Resource Center, A Different Light Bookstore, Boadecia's Books, and New York Lesbian Herstory Archives. Part of the San Francisco Bay Area Book Council's Book Festival. \$8 advance; \$10 door. 8pm. 16th Street at Capp. 575-4700.

### Yerba Buena Center

"Jack Spicer's Ecotopia: a Celebration," featuring talks by Kevin Killian and Lewis Ellingham, authors of the biography *Poet Be Like God: Jack Spicer and the San Francisco Renaissance*, and Peter Gizzi, editor of *The House that Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer*. Also appearing will be many of Spicer's contemporaries in the arts. \$5 (\$3 students/seniors). 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Lounge, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd). 978-ARTS.

### Buceon Gallery

Reception for Jerad Walker, a "visual philosopher" who expresses ideas through painting, kinetic sculpture, installation, drawing, and film.

Free. 6-8pm. Solo show runs thru 12/5. 540 Hayes St. 863-2891.

### New Langton Arts

"In the Same Breath (for different reasons)," a postmodern play by storytellers and Bay Area Award recipients Miriam Kronberg and Gloria Yamato, utilizing the Middle Passage and the Holocaust as points of departure in an elemental struggle for survival, full of the tender viciousness that lives under desire. Directed by Shakiri. \$8 (\$6 students/seniors). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. (btwn 8th & 9th). 626-5416.

### SF Art Commission Gallery

Continuing exhibit, "Harvey Milk: Second Sight," curated by Bob Kelley, featuring images from the Harvey Milk/Scott Smith Archives. Free. Thru 12/19. Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Info: 252-2568, or e-mail sfac-gallery@telis.org.

### ACT @ Geary Theater

Academy Award winner Olympia Dukakis stars as the enslaved Trojan queen in Euripides' *Hecuba*, directed by Carey Perloff. 8pm. Thru 11/22. Tix: Geary Theater Box Office, 405 Geary St. (at

Mason); 749-2228; BASS; and online at [www.act-sfbay.org](http://www.act-sfbay.org).

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

Preview: "From the Hip," a play tracing the journey of Sissy and Sassy Sheraton, Siamese Twins who are talented 1950s songbirds pursuing dreams of stardom. \$12 (previews only). 8pm. Previews run thru 11/13. Regular run opens 11/14. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market), lower lobby. Tix/info: 861-8972.

### MCC

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco presents its annual fall concert, "Classical Music for Cowards," an evening of "music that's fun, not formal." 8pm. Also on 11/7. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. Tix at A Different Light Bookstore and at the door. Info: 861-7067.

### City Club

Bi-monthly cocktail party in the Financial District for MAX (Men's Associated Exchange), a gay men's social club. Every 1st & 3rd Friday. \$5 (free for members). 6pm. 155 Sansome St. (btwn Bush & Pine), 10th floor. 442-1992.

### Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together holds its monthly gathering. Tonight's topic: "GenderQuest (What Sex Am I?)." Free. Refreshments served. 7-9pm. 2nd floor, 1354 Harrison St. (at 10th). 675-0201.

### Space 964

SU-EN, a Butoh dance company from Sweden, performs "Scrap Bodies," exploring "the naked, pure body in contrast to the landscape of the scrap yard." Sponsored by the Consulate General of Sweden. \$8-\$16. 8pm. Also on 11/7. 964 Natoma St. (btwn 10th & 11th). 789-8000, ext 1066. Also: SU-EN founder Susanna Åkerlund will give Butoh workshops at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 11/7-10. For info, call Badron at the above number.

### Crucible Steel Gallery

Fundraiser for Bay Area Wilderness Training Program, a new organization that trains adult youth workers in outdoor skills. Food, entertainment, socializing, and raffle (including outdoor gear). Support helping get kids outdoors. \$10 (\$5 under 18). 2050 Bryant St. (at 20th). Info: Victoria at 643-7432.

## Šat

### Café DuNord

Fierce spoken-word artist Lydia Lunch, who provokes with graphic sexual content and extreme political confrontation, teams up with composer Joseph Budenholzer and saxophonist Terry Edwards. \$10. 10pm. 2170

Market St.

### Academy of Art Gallery

Reception for "Dreams" and "Positive Reality," two series of oil paintings by Grant E. Sun. He juxtaposes text with figures in the traditional Asian aesthetic with a Western perspective. Free. 6-9pm. Academy of Art College, 625 Sutter St.

### Club Townsend

Universe hosts a kick-off for the 1998 Pediatric AIDS Toy Drive, benefitting the University of California Pediatric AIDS/HIV Treatment Center of San Francisco. Special guest DJ Tony Humphries of New York City. It's also a birthday party for house DJ David Harness. \$12; free if you bring a new, unwrapped toy to give to be given to one of the kids. 21+ w/ID. 9:30pm-7am. 177 Townsend (at 3rd). Hotline: 289-6650.

### King Street Garage

"New Wave City" deejays Skip & Shindog salute The Smiths. An '80s dance party, with lots of Smiths and Morrissey, along with the best of the New Wave era. Visuals by Altered Images. \$10. 9pm-3am. 21+ w/ID. 174 King St. (at 3rd). 675-LOVE.

### Theatre Rhinoceros

Opening night: "Valsetz," featuring June Stoddard and Claudia Rosa in a story of a hard-driving lesbian Hollywood producer whose car breaks down in front of an elderly widow's home in Valsetz, Oregon (Population: one). Preceded by "Industry Standards," three short comedies (by Robert Reinhart, Doug Holsclaw, and Charles Busch and Kenneth Elliott) about men in the Arts, starring Brian Yates and Robert Mackey. \$22 (opening night only; otherwise \$12-\$19). Thru 12/5. 2926 16th St. Reservations: 861-5079.

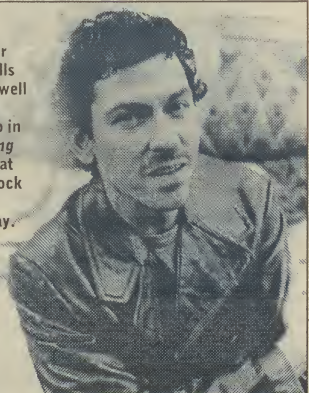
### ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents "Dead Media," in which artists re-vivify arcane early-cinema forms. Includes experimental 3-D work; a presentation contrasting the seminal cinematographic research of Muybridge and Marey with the later time/motion studies of Taylor and Gilbreth; demonstrations of rare projectors, including a hand-cranked model; a precinematic device called a "retrospectroscope"; and assorted other proto-cinema arca. "Dead Media" is based on the Marshall McLuhan insight: "If you don't study the effects of technology, you become its slave." \$5. 8pm. Artists Television Access Gallery, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

### EVRC

The Golden Gate Dragons invites all experienced martial artists to its monthly meeting. Bring any focus pads, bags, or sparring equipment you may have. 1-2:30pm. Eureka Valley Recreation Center auditorium, 100 Collingwood St.

Solo performer David Mills says farewell to San Francisco in *Everything Must Go* at the Peacock Lounge. See Friday.







Six of Hearts sing songs of growing up, at The Plush Room. Pictured (clockwise from top) are Michael McCormack, Julie Arbagey, Mark Enea, and Allison Hilliard. See Sunday.

Info: Jim Gardner, 626-5179; surf [www.delphi.com/sfdrag-ons/](http://www.delphi.com/sfdrag-ons/).

### California Pacific Medical Center

"Music and Healing," an educational program with singer, sound healer, teacher, and spiritual guide Sabina Elizabeth, sponsored by the Alternative Treatments Education Network. Free. 1-4pm. Gazebo Room, CPMC (formerly Davies Medical Center), Castro & Duboce. 284-6237.

### A Different Light

BOOK FEST EVENTS: At 2pm, Frank Castelluccio and Alvin Walker read from *The Other Side of Ethel Mertz*, and David Ehrenstein reads from *Open Secret*. At 7:30pm, Nisa Donnelly, Jess Wells, Jewelle Gomez, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, and Carla Trujillo read from *To Be Continued...*, edited by Michele Karlsberg. Free. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

## Sun

### Plush Room

Six of Hearts presents the premiere of "The Kid Inside," a musical backward glance on themes of adolescence and growing up. Singers Mark Enea, Julie Arbagey, Michael Bulatao, Allison Hilliard, Michael McCormack, and Jeanine A. Robinson perform musical numbers from the Broadway shows of Sondheim, Ahrens and Flaherty, Maltby and Shire, Jerry Herman, Roger Miller, Kander and Ebb, and Maury Yeston. Directed by Jenny Lord. \$20. 8:30pm. Also on 11/9 at 7:30pm (continues Sun. & Mon. thru 11/23). Reservations: 885-2800.

### Venue 9

Liz White, Kurt Weitzmann, Bridget Schwartz and others perform in "Office Politics," comedic sketches and solo pieces about life in the modern workplace. \$8-\$12 sliding. 8pm. Venue 9 Theatre, 252 Ninth St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). 775-7970.

### Lone Star Saloon

The 6th annual Mr. San Francisco Bear Contest, a benefit for Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS), in conjunction with beer/soda bust hosted by Men of All Colors Together. Includes auction and raffle. \$7. 4-8pm. 1354 Harrison (btwn 9th & 10th).

### International Bldg.

"Art for the Archives," a benefit for the Leather Archives and Museum, presented by Peter Fiske in conjunction

with The 15 and The Society of Janus. Bondage performance art, plus art auction and free appraisals. Donations of art, leather, and SM equipment accepted at door. \$5. 1-5pm. 50 Oak St. 351-1555.

### A Different Light

BOOK FEST EVENT: "Outspoken," featuring two groups of authors. At 7pm, Randy Boyd, Jewelle Gomez, Frederick Hertz, Jess Wells, Joan Drury, and Jannell Moon. At 8pm, Abigail Padgett, Tristian Taormino, Joel Tan, Lara Stapleton, Katherine Forrest, and Jim van Buskirk. Free.

### MCC

BOOK FEST EVENT: Andrew Sullivan reads from and discusses *Love Undetectable*. Free. 8pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St.

## Mon

### A Different Light

BOOK FEST EVENT: Michael Lowenthal reads from and discusses *Same Embrace*. Free. 7:30pm.

### El Rio

Live acoustic music with Green outdoors on the patio. \$3. 8pm. 21+ w/ID. 3158 Mission St. (btwn. Cesar Chavez & Valencia). 282-3325.

## Tue

### Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen presents "Tuju Taksu," contemporary

masked dance theatre featuring Maru Matthaei and her innovative Balinese influenced contemporary dance company. \$10.50-\$12.50 sliding (\$8.50 students/seniors). 2840 Mariposa St. (btwn. Florida & Alabama) at Theatre Artaud. 621-7978.

### A Different Light

BOOK FEST EVENT: Sarah Schulman reads from and discusses *Shimmer and Stage Struck*. Free. 7:30pm.

### St. Francis Church

Workaholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday noon-1pm, in the library room at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 152 Church St. (at Duboce). Use right entrance.

## Wed

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

Preview: "Beautiful Thing," in which two teenage boys risk everything for love. An upbeat, unsentimental portrait of adolescent self-discovery. Written by Jonathan Harvey; directed by Ed Decker. A part of NCT's fourth Pride Season. \$12 (previews only). 8pm. Previews run thru 11/20. Regular run opens 11/21. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market), lower lobby. Tix: 861-8972.

### A Different Light

BOOK FEST EVENT: Frederick Woodruff reads from and discusses *Secrets of a Telephone Psychic*. Free. 7:30pm.

### SF Camerawork

Continuing exhibit, "The Fotovela," displaying the work of nine national and international photographers

creating contemporary photo narratives. Curated by Jane Levy Reed. Free. 115 Natoma (btwn. Mission & Howard, 2nd & New Montgomery). 764-1001.

## Thur

### Yerba Buena Center

The Lawrence Pech Dance Company premieres "Newton: Three Laws of Motion," Julia Adam's new ballet with music by Bach and Mozart, plus "Spanish Song," danced by Wendy Van Dyck to an arrangement for two guitars. Also: "Initiation," Antonio Castilla's steamy pas de deux to the beat of Australian didgeridoo and percussion, and more. \$20 & \$25. 8pm. Thru 11/15. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Mission St. (at 3rd). Tix: 978-2787.

### A Different Light

BOOK FEST EVENT: Frank Browning reads from and discusses *Apples*. Free. 7:30pm.

### Bindlestiff Studio

Teatro ng Tanan presents Gigi Otalvaro-Hormillosa (aka The Devil Bunny in Bondage) in "Memory and White Love," a live art piece utilizing song, dance, drum and multiple characterizations to celebrate queerness and the centennial of American conquest of the Philippines. \$10 (\$7 student/seniors). 8pm. Thru 11/14. 185 6th St. (btwn. Mission & Howard). 974-1167.

### Under One Roof

Reception for "Polonaise," a collection of European hand-blown tree ornaments created by skilled artisans, including Iwona Wiszniewska of Poland, who will be on hand to sign her creations. 4-8pm. 2362-B Market St. 252-9430.

## WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon  
Out & About  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

## This Week's Dinner Specials



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**Prime Rib** au jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish ..... **12.95**

**Chicken Stroganoff** with marsala wine, mushrooms and sour cream served over fettucini ..... **8.95**

**Chicken Cordon Bleu** stuffed with honey-baked ham & fontina cheese, with veggies & mashed potatoes ..... **8.95**

**Chicken Dijon** sauteed with white wine dijon mustard sauce, veggies and chef's rice or potatoes ..... **7.95**

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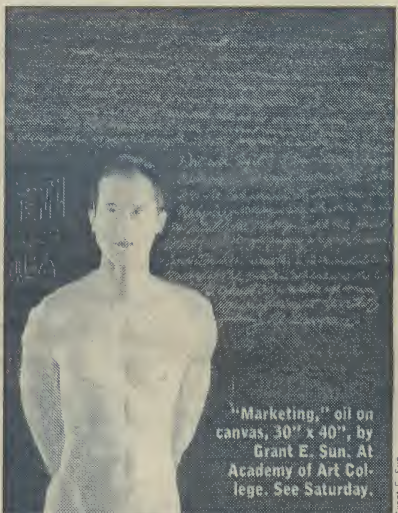
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Sun. 2pm 25 Van Ness Ave, near Market St, Lower Lobby

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"Marketing," oil on canvas, 30" x 40", by Grant E. Sun. At Academy of Art College. See Saturday.

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## Out There

◀ page 34

### Curtain calls

The screening last week at the Roxie Cinema of films by San Francisco "bad boy" gay underground filmmaker **Curt McDowell** reminded us of the times we used to see him working the box office at that esteemed rep house in the early '80s. McDowell was lavishing a queer aesthetic in his movies back in the '70s, as the Roxie showing of his 1975 hardcore masterpiece *Thundercrack* amply demonstrated. His untimely death came in 1987. This fall, Videoactive Releasing has brought out video releases of *Thundercrack* and a shorts compilation called *Loads of McDowell*, including his much-loved short *Loads*, in which all manner of rough trade is invited up to his Tenderloin studio to toss a load on camera. For distribution information on the videos, call 1-800-666-2627.

### Aviation disaster

Is this what they mean by an mid-air collision? Two **locally famous strong personality photographers** who Don't Get Along found themselves trapped on the same flight out of SFO last week, just a row apart. The close encounter came about when Photog #1 was looking to make himself more comfortable in an empty seat — in fact, chasing away the young woman who had moved there, with the insistence that he had already asked a stewardess for the seat — "because it's close to the emergency exit. I prefer to sit as close to the emergency exit as possible."

Photog #2, who had seen his nemesis but didn't think the other had yet seen him, was sitting in the very next row in front. He tried to keep his head down and remain unobserved, and commenced chugging down beers to relieve the tension. But all the stress and all the beers took their toll, and finally his aversion to the whole situation was so great he tossed his airplane food, all over his seat and tray table! In the ensuing chaos and mess, he was moved to another seat, so his presence was exposed. The two SF personalities spent the rest of the flight not speaking to each other, and glaring.

### Ciggy break

Our favorite aspect of the new **Judy Garland** box set, gaily reviewed by **John F. Karr** in these pages, is the videotape of *The Judy Garland Show*, which aired on CBS in the early sixties. After the opening number, an announcer intones, "Brought to you by the American Tobacco Companies," and we break away to a TV commercial for Lucky Strikes, back in the days when the Evil Habit was still considered telegenic. A lusty male chorus sings, "Lucky separates the men from the boys!" as we observe a sweaty homo wrestling sequence, with all the

fun inevitably ended by, "...but not from the girls!"

### Booked for the weekend

The Bay Area Book Fest this weekend means a lot of booky dates. Two literary-world events coming up this Friday, November 6, deserve what little plugola we can give them. First off, Cleis Press presents "A Tribute to **Joan Nestle**" in celebration of her new book *A Fragile Union: New & Selected Writings*. That Carolina bastard herself, **Dorothy Allison**, will host the evening of readings from Nestle's work by such luminaries as **Alison Bechdel**, **Jewelle Gomez**, **Katherine Forrest**, and more. Welcome Joan Nestle, the founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, to San Francisco at 8 p.m. that evening at the Victoria Theatre, 16th Street at Mission. Tickets are \$8 advance, \$10 at the door. For more info, call 575-4700.



Jack Spicer, Halloween 1954

The very same night, as part of Small Press Traffic's "Verse and Vino" series, a handful of experts on postmodern poet **Jack Spicer** will offer a tribute of sorts to the late great Bay Area poet. Two new books explore Spicer's legacy: *The House That Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer*, edited by **Peter Gizzi**; and *Poet Be Like God: Jack Spicer and the San Francisco Renaissance*, by **Lewis Ellingham** and **Kevin Killian**. Friday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m., at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Lounge, Gizzi, Ellingham, and Killian will discuss their books and take questions from the audience, and several of Spicer's contemporaries from the arts scene of SF in the '50s and '60s will attend. Admission is \$3-5.

### Separated at birth?

Finally, thanks to **Lawrence Helman** for furnishing us with the "Frederick's of Hollywood" Christmas catalogue, in which the glamourpuss in the platinum wig (right) bears a striking resemblance to Enrique's **D'Arcy Drollinger** (left), shown here in *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls*. You can have the Frederick's catalogue back now, Lawrence — our art director has already ordered and received his flaming red, fully-boned corset, and marabou collar-and-cuffs negligée. So now he's all set for the BAR X-mas party. ▼



Kent Taylor (left)

Which twin has the Toni? D'Arcy Drollinger and doppelgänger



## BOOKS

# Born at the wrong time

by Linnea Due

*Shimmer* by Sarah Schulman;  
Avon \$23

People either love or hate a Sarah Schulman novel; her characters and her risk-taking (or lack of it) inspire strong reactions. Bring up *Empathy* at a party and watch the fur fly. When I review Schulman, I try to let readers gauge how closely their tastes meet mine, in the same way that I use a certain film critic: if he hates a movie, odds are I'll find it fascinating, and if he writes a rave, I cross it off my list. In the interests of fair warning, the winners of my personal popularity poll are *Girls, Visions, and Everything* and *Empathy*, while in the garbage pit is *People in Trouble*. Note that I have left out a few: I had mixed reactions to *After Delores* and haven't read *Rat Bohemia*, while *The Sophie Horowitz Story* is so long ago it hardly counts.

But don't take any of this too seriously, because unlike *Empathy* or *People in Trouble*, *Shimmer* is a book we all can love. It ratchets Schulman a notch or two higher into rarefied territory where very good authors take real chances that mainly work, and in some way it elucidates her other books; it stitches together her work into a whole cloth.

*Shimmer* concerns itself with that perennial Schulman topic, identity, and specifically how individuals are informed and diminished by the unavoidable fact of who they are in unfortunate opposition or happy conjunction with society and the politics of the moment. What's of the moment in *Shimmer* is the McCarthy era and blacklisting; being different in gender, race, orientation, class, or even ambition from the minority in charge is a crime punishable by irrelevance. Schulman is writing about the social construction of reality, and when at the end of *Shimmer*, her character Sylvia Golubowsky clings to her identity, thus losing everything and gaining herself back in one grand gesture, she is embracing the paradox that defines her life.

Have I made *Shimmer* sound tiresome and didactic? It is anything but. Schulman's gift, and it is more present here than ever, is to observe what makes us tick with a piercing honesty that is as wise as it is acute. Much of our interactions, when we touch and wound each other, when we try to love each other, occur in small moments, in unthought-out gestures, in the acting out of assumptions we believe are universal. Schulman explores these in detail, in scenes in which her

characters blunder and dream and have visions, and are often brought up short in careless ways that make us wince with sympathy and painful recognition.

## 'Star' system

The novel starts in the present day, with Sylvia commenting on her past: "Certain personality types slit our own throats because we have to. We can't help it, we're about something larger than ourselves. But don't slit your own throat if you're not expecting blood. There is no cure for honor." Within another page, we're slung back to 1948, where Sylvia works as a secretary at the New York *Star*. The secretaries start off at desk Number Eighteen and move up as the girls ahead of them get married, are fired, or lose heart. Sylvia wants to be a reporter, and she thinks she's got to move seventeen desks to achieve her goal; the fact that no other girl has advanced from the steno pool to the newsroom doesn't faze her.

Then there's Cal Byfield. A talented playwright, he wants his plays produced on Broadway — or let's not get too grandiose, Off-Broadway would do. Cal's problem is that he's black. Everyone tells him to write for the small theater groups in Harlem, but he is stubbornly set on writing black-themed plays for a general audience. "I want to be called an American playwright with an American voice," he says. "None of you dream of having your life's blood on some second-rate stage. Why should I?"

Austin Van Cleeve is a rich leech whose only joy lies in screwing other people over. He has no redeeming values, which is the sole glaring defect in a book otherwise strewn with very complicated characters who dig and gnarl at the truth, no matter how unpalatable it may be. Schulman might say that Van Cleeve is just that unpalatable, but she didn't convince me, particularly since we read his parts in first person.

The first two-thirds of the book are rendered in voices so attuned to the late '40s that it's almost eerie. Sylvia's and Austin's stories are told in first person, while Cal's life is related by his granddaughter, with some first person material from his journal. Not only are the voices absolutely distinct, but Schulman effortlessly shifts back and forth as she knits a spider's web that the reader, with sinking stomach, knows will eventually entrap everyone.

## Pining soul

When we meet Sylvia, she is pining over her roommate, who has just moved out to get married. The two did everything together,

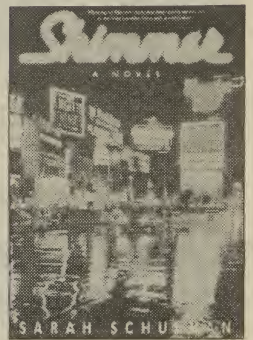
and Sylvia can't understand how her friend could simply abandon her. Because she doesn't conceive of lesbian relationships, she doesn't quite understand her feelings, but she doesn't dismiss them, either; Sylvia doesn't need outsiders to verify her feelings. This proves to be both her undoing and her strength — when she is betrayed later on in the book, she is devastated, both by the act and by the fact that no one takes her rage seriously.

When Sylvia does not become a reporter, Schulman doesn't make the mistake of saddling her with a job she hates. Sylvia likes her new post and is good at it, but it's not what she desperately wants to do. She might have failed as a reporter, but at least she would have had the adventure of trying; Sylvia's — and Cal's — failure is implicit in the fact of their lives, of who they are. Says Cal: "My career was over ... I could never be what I wanted to be, because what I wanted to be could not exist in that historic moment." We can blame society's failure, but we must also say that failure is visited in each individual's broken heart.

Using Cal's granddaughter to tell his story is a brilliant stroke that brings us to a present in which N. Tammi Byfield goes to Columbia near the same cafe where her grandfather flipped burgers. We see the massive social changes, and we also see that the historic moment Cal was awaiting is light-years away. The travails of Cal and Sylvia are achingly familiar; when the certainty of failure

has been vastly magnified for large groups of people, what has changed?

It's a dilemma that Schulman, who is a better writer than she's given credit for, is well-suited to explore. Says Sylvia about the students she teaches to write: "None of this matters because they are already doomed. By history. They too were born at the wrong time... One day each of these kids will pray to be stuck in an office with fluorescent lights... You see, in today's economy, even excellence has no reward." ▼



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## Schlock-o-Rama

◀ page 38

haps the film most indicative of Adamson's cinematic legerdemain is *Horror of the Blood Monsters*. An ancient ploy of schlockmeisters was to buy (or steal) the rights to an existing film, shoot a few additional scenes, and present it as new. This happened with the original *Godzilla*, but Adamson triumphed when he took a cheap Filipino caveman movie and shot some surrounding footage of toy spaceships and a lounge converted into a cut-rate Cape Canaveral to make us think we're looking at a space movie. Probably 90 percent of the film is the Filipino


original, but in Adamson's deft hands it becomes a much wilder experience. Unconscious comedy arrives with another actor on the downward curve, John Carradine, whose inexplicable screaming nastiness with his crew is only surpassed for sheer camp fun by things like the filmmaker's refusal to bother removing the stools from the bar he's trying to pass off as a command central for a space mission. ▼

*Schlock-o-Rama: A Tribute to Al Adamson and Regina Carrol* plays the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission St., Nov. 7, 14 and 21 at 8 p.m. Call 978-ARTS.



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SMMILE Board of Directors (l to r): Kevin Krupp, Mark Campanella, Paul Lester (President), Michael Wieland, Michelle Hunt, Joe Gallagher, Marcus Wonacott, Greg Byfield, and Michael Wolford distributed \$165,000 to various charities, Sunday, November 1, at the Eagle beer bust. The money came from proceeds from the Dore Alley and Folsom Street Fairs earlier this year.

## Charities get big bucks from leather fests

# SMMILE: 'You win \$165,000!'

by Mister Marcus

Leather pride at the Eagle was so intense last Sunday afternoon, November 1, you could almost see it surging through the crowd. Hundreds of volunteers from this year's Folsom Street Fair and Dore Alley Fair, on hand for a special beer/soda bust, were thrilled to learn of the unprecedented success of their efforts at raising funds for charitable causes. Equally happy were the many recipients of those funds; eleven worthy organizations received checks from the board of directors of SMMILE, the organization that produced both events. Happiest of all were the SMMILE directors themselves, who were pleased to distribute an unprecedented \$165,000 to the nonprofit agen-

cies.

Here, for those of you who couldn't be on hand for the presentation ceremonies, is a full list of those upon whom SMMILE smiled:

The AIDS/HIV Nightline, Ark of Refuge and PAWS received \$10,000;

The Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California and Metropolitan Community Church received \$23,000 each;

Episcopal Community Services received \$15,000;

LYRIC and Quan Yin Healing Arts received \$12,000 each;

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence received \$23,000 to carry on their charitable works;

The SF Fire Department (for its Toys for Christmas program), St. Joseph's Village, the SF Police Department (for its Youth Fishing

Program) and the SF Dept. of Parking & Traffic for its charities received a total of \$10,784.

Groups that manned the beer/booze booths at the fairs divided \$16,216. They included the Bears of SF, Golden Gate Guards MC, Knights of Malta, SF GDIs, the Castro Lions Club and the Bay Area Chapter of the Golden State Gay Rodeos Association.

SMMILE Chairman of the Board of Directors Paul Lester was ebullient in his thanks to the 300 or so volunteers and thousands of leather and non-leather individuals from all over the world and the U.S. who helped SMMILE amass the funds. The money will go to help countless people in need.

Clearly the inclement weather at the Folsom Street Fair didn't dampen donations.

As each group's name was announced, the audience applause was loud and prolonged; the peo-

page 53 ►



Best of the Oklahoma Mr. Leather contest (clockwise from top left): winner Ric Poston; OML '98 Roger McConnell; 1st Runner Up Randal Kinneary; 2nd RU Claire Stevenson; 3rd RU "Falcon" Newton.



# Love me Tenderloin

by Sweet Lips

Hal Gage and Ima Blaster present the 5th Annual Fall Fundraiser for Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners on Saturday, November 14, Noon to 4 p.m. at Jack Eichelberger's New Gold Room, 939 Geary St. The festivities are hosted by the Sweet & Sour 16s, Pushy Phyllis, and Suzie Wong. Your \$3 donation gets you a fantastic brunch, an auction, and a fabulous show starring the Blaster Sisters. It's a very good cause, and a very loose crowd.

Marlena's, 488 Hayes St., is celebrating a double 59th Birthday Party on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.: Emperor Mathew Brown,

and Garry "Marlene" McLain — but I do happen to know that Mathew is a few years younger than Marlene.

The Rendezvous' lovely and talented Rachael leaves SF on Nov. 17 for Puerto Vallarta, to join B.A.R. Political Editor Wayne Friday. Is there a romance in the offing?

Let's take a stroll round a few Polkstrasse bars and see who's on the plank. Over at the Giraffe, the popular David Wagstaff is doing a great job on his Sunday shift (8 a.m.-2 p.m.). Yours Truly is doing a guest spot bartending at

the Rendezvous on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come by for some dish and dirt.

Hey, the Stop AIDS Project, 1475 Polk St., Suite #5, with Marcel Miranda as the neighborhood organizer, has some great plans for the Polk St. community. If you need help or information, "dew drop inn."

Remember, the Rendezvous is the home of the fabulous 49ers parties — lots of prizes, primo fun, and drink specials with David Kapp and L. James. Now if we could only get them to quit going off-sides. ▼



Cocktail Hour

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

ple who stepped forward to receive awards nearly broke into tears when advised of the largesse of their checks. It was truly a day to remember.

And again, ever-helpful volunteers materialized to pour the beer for those gathered. And topping off the whole event was a flawless lasagna, salad, and garlic bread dinner provided by Harvey's — a truly inspiring meal.

Needless to say, records were made to be broken, so SMMILE is already at work planning next year's two street fairs, which the directors hope will exceed this year's grand sum. In case you're interested in volunteering or attending, you are hereby put on notice that the Dore Alley Fair will take place on Sunday, July 25. The 16th annual Folsom Street Fair is on Sunday, September 26. Make your plans now!

### Halloween in Faghdad

Along with the Pride Parade in June and the Folsom Street Fair in

September, one of the biggest gay events here in San Francisco is Halloween, though the so-called Witches' Christmas is not confined to the GLBT communities.

Thousands of those "other" people joined in the celebration, and costume shop workers report that the most obnoxious costume renters were heterosexual males! Need I tell you, some people just couldn't wait until Saturday night to go haunting, and by Thursday, costumed revelers were out and about parading like demons.

Even though a bit of rain fell, it was nowhere near enough to dampen any spirits. By 1730 hours on Saturday, The Disastro was a seething mass of costumed revelers. Crowds on Castro and in the Civic Center offered a challenge to the SFPD, but the cops were prepared, and managed to keep things under control.

Meanwhile, down in the South of Market, The Hell Ball at the Galleria Design Center was completely sold out and yes, there were ticket scalpers selling the \$40 - \$45 tickets for as much as \$100 each! Out of towners and locals

alike were scalped.

The capacity of the main floor of the Galleria is 999, but the balconies were overflowing with gawkers and dancers alike, so there must have been close to 2,000 in attendance. And of course there were costumes galore, but this year it was more tits than ass. Are we becoming a tad too conservative as we approach the next millennium?

There were lots of gladiators, Roman soldiers and drag outfits. And as always, the simplest and least expensive costumes drew the most attention, i.e., the sextet of guys with electric chili peppers glowing; another group with white paper jump suits, white helmets and coal miner lanterns; there was also a group of Egyptian slave boys and a dozen or so Playboy bunnies, complete with cocktail trays. Hell Ball 98, was a success and everyone was definitely in the spirit of the event.

This year's Hell Ball, with a "Return To Glory" theme, was a benefit for LYRIC, and it will be interesting to know what the net proceeds will be for that worthy organization. ▼

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## E V E N T U R E S I N L E A T H E R

### Thursday, November 5

Big Basket Contest at The Edge. The usual shenanigans with the Old Bag, Danny Williams, beerbust, and bulging crotch extravaganza.

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at Daddy's, 2100-2400, with the usual fun at the Guards' events.

Master and slave Together (MAST) meeting, 1930, upstairs at the Lone Star Saloon. Subject: "How Do You Find a Good Master or slave?"

Pre-contest event for Mr. SF Bear, with a roasting of outgoing title holder Richard Dupler. Bears in Boxers beer/soda bust for \$6 with boxers or \$8 without to benefit PAWS.

Free and anonymous HIV testing (new oral test) at 933 Harrison (upstairs), 2030 to 2230, by Blow Buddies and the AIDS Health Project.

Reception for artist Jim Leff, from 1800 to 2100. The show of oil paintings, "more beautiful Western art cowboys," hangs until November 23, so drop in and check it out.

### Weekend, November 6-8

Gay Pride in Palm Springs, with a Parade downtown on Sunday, plus the Mr. Palm Springs Leather Contest. The \$85 weekend price includes beer busts, demos, dungeon party, and contest. Call (760) 323-5563 or Email: pslod@aol.com. It benefits desert AIDS charities.

### Friday, November 6

It's the first Friday of the month, and that means boot night at the Loading Dock. Drink specials from 2100 to closing; free boot shines by Int'l. Boot Black 1997 "Driller," and drink specials until closing. Remember, the higher the boots, the more oozing in leather crotches!

### Saturday, November 7

Pediatric Toy Drive begins. Drop off unwrapped

toys at Daddy's every day or on weekends only at Club Townsend, through Dec. 20.

Defenders SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star, 1500-1900, with \$1 hot dogs and a \$7 fee for all the beer/soda you can drink

Schlepping in Seattle? Attend the Leather Ambassador Contest, open to leather men and women, at Neighbors. While there, be sure to visit The Cuff Complex, now open, complete with leather, liquor, dining room, and dancing.

### Sunday, November 8

6th Annual Mr. Bear of San Francisco at the Lone Star, 1600-2000, with a \$7 beer/soda bust by Men of All Colors Together (MACT).

Leather Archives & Museum Art for the Archives auction at the International Bldg. (50 Oak Street), from 1300-1700, and SM bondage performance art. Hosted by Lenny Broberg and Miranda von Stockhausen. Joseph Bean, Executive Director of the LA&M, will be present. Don't miss this one!

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8 and all the cruising you can cram into three hours!

Leather Pantry 2 beer/soda bust for \$7, from 1600-1900, with entertainment by The Grand Negress Godiva, to benefit Project Open Hand. Second of 4 events by Lance Brittain and Andre English.

### Wednesday, November 11

Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules, and the time. Wet and wild. Flow freely. Call 863-HEAD.

### Thursday, November 12

Free STD screening (not HIV) upstairs at 933 Harrison, by Blow Buddies and City Clinic. For more info, call 863-HEAD.

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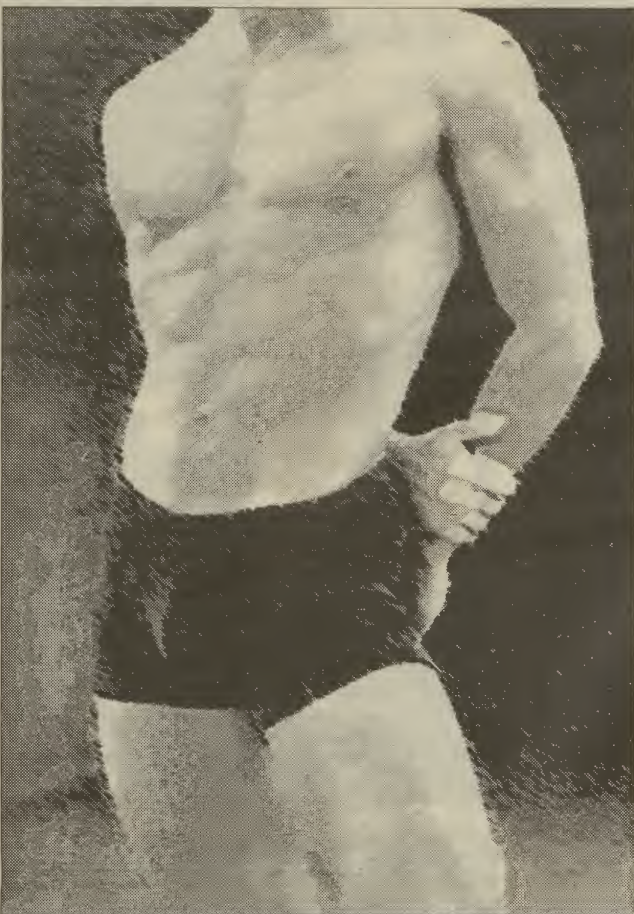


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### PARTING GLANCES

**After Magnitude 9/26-Red car**  
You were in red car, we followed each other until Franklin St. I should have continued. I thought about you all night. Please respond! ☎ 4500

**Wayne in Saint John's Wood**  
I just learned you're still in town. I'm a pleasant acquaintance, circa 1991. Also, you are an expert in an area I'm exploring. Would love to hear from you. Chas ☎ 4501

**St. Francis Sanctuary 10/4**  
@ reception for choir from Portland, and we smiled @ each other many times. I was S/friends, want to see you again. You: Blond blue T-shirt. Me: Asian W/glasses. ☎ 4502

**Coffee Mill Oakland 10-2**  
Friend said you Blonde with dazzling smile, me bearded Blonde in white Toyota. Let's do coffee and talk? ☎ 4503

**Duboco Park Sun 10/4 5:30pm**  
You: BM, grey-tinted natural, glasses, plaid shirt, black jeans. Me: WM, leather bag, waiting for N car. Wanted to follow you but was late. Wanna meet? ☎ 4504

**Powerhouse- Folsom St. Fair**  
You: Sexy GBM with killer smile blue SFDD T-shirt. Me: GBM BLN BU Me said hi and squeezed as you went by. Let's talk. ☎ 4505

**Hawaii 9/19**  
Brad, we met at the PCC show, we "hoped to see each other again" but never did. Call if interested. Steve ☎ 4506

**The Metro-Castro St. Fair Day**  
Stopped you at the corner to say hello. Asked if that was your lover at the bar, you said yes but with some hesitation. Can I change your mind? Call ☎ 4507

**Castro St Fair Sun/day 10/4/11pm1st**  
You: beautiful guy, white jacket, on corner near Esta Noche. Me: Turning corner w/friend leaving. White jeep truck. We both strained our eyes & necks staring as I drove away. Call! Love @ first sight? ☎ 4600

**VA-9/29 Clinic**  
Our eyes met we smiled more than once. We were unable to talk. Would like to get to know you. You had interesting reading glasses. Please call ☎ 4508

**Victor: Labor Day wknd @ RRR**  
made a date @ pool after T-shirt auction to Fides Dance. I waited, but never saw U. Want to see you again & talk. Call Scott ☎ 4510

**NYC Guy sks SFDD cop Folsom Fair**  
Couldn't make it to B.S. & regretting it. You: Salt/pepper stache, blue eyes, great smile, sexy. Me: 6'4", shaved head, mixed race, lean, muscular, leather. Must talk to u again. ☎ 4511

**Met @ Willows Guemville 11/2yrs ago**  
You, tall, goodlooking w/boyfriend. You, back from Seattle & single. Said hi to each other on Market St. I wanted to get together but didn't ask. Now I'm asking. Call Dave ☎ 4512

**Smiling in Tuxedo Sat 9/26**  
You: handsome, salt/pepper, radiant smile, front left table @ alliance dinner. Left early. Me: Hoping you read ad's, too shy/dumb to say more than hello. Add some color to my life. Make me smile. A less formal dinner??? And not 2 tables apart!!! ☎ 4558

**Theatre Rhino 10/7 a lady in Question**  
Handsome blue shirt black jeans silver buzzcut go-T. Me: Asian/Amer black leather jacket go-T. tattoo on neck both waiting outside to shy to talk. Would like to meet--Jeffery ☎ 4601

**Martin @ Stud Tranny Shack...**  
After the opera You: in leather pants with sister worn bubble gum blowing contest. I lost your #, please call Jimmy ☎ 4602

**Asian @ Castro Fair early PM**  
You: Cute Asian, dark red patterned shirt, until there's a cure band (aka the bracelet) left wrist. Me: WM, tall blond, etc. Couldn't take my eyes off you! (Shy) - Call ☎ 4603

**Love @ First Sight?**  
Castro St. Fair @ 2:00pm. You: Long wavy blond hair wearing blue/green hawaiian sarong and beach sandals. Me: Long haired Filipino, hidden amongst the crowd. Call if interested. Tom ☎ 4610

**Bay Village Mkt oct5 Mon morn.**  
You: Lt. br hair mustache, mauve polo shirt. Me: Dk hair, goatee, maroon T-shirt. Would love to meet! ☎ 4604

**Dore Alley St. Fair U mesh shorts**  
Nothing underneath, very handsome, great eyes & melting smile. Me: mirrored sunglasses w/white blinders, cod piece. Said I liked the glasses. Would love to be bad w/you. Call ☎ 4605

**Fri 10/2 4:30 Castro Muni Station**  
First noticed each other getting off the out-bound train. Exchanged glances until 18th st., then spoke briefly. You (short salt/pepper hair) jeans, dark shirt. Me: Tan shorts, blue & tan shirt, running shoes. ☎ 4607

**Clayton!!!! Call Dan!!!!**  
missed you at N Tux, searched for you at Chicago, now loitering at the Mark. Please call ☎ 4608

**Fri 10/16 My Place**  
U: Russian River T-shirt, beard. P.A. wolf! Me: Shaved head, nose ring, I want to get with you one on one. Guaranteed Hot!!! ☎ 4700

**Outside Castro Cal Fed**  
9/30/98-1:45pm. You: Gorgeous GBM leaning on mailbox. We exchanged nods and glances. I didn't get up the nerve to say "Hi" I'd like to now. ☎ 4509

**Hot Japanese @ Brooks Brothers**  
U helped me w/water exchange, (white for yellow) wed. 10/7. Would like to buy you coffee, maybe more, call if interested. ☎ 4701

**UA Eli on 10/10 from Denver to SF**  
I was a flight attendant dead heading seated in 1st class and you were a passenger in 1st class. We looked at each other and smiled many times. Call me ☎ 4702

**Latin Stud in Camouflage Pants**  
You: Dk Madress, Russian River. Stared @ me hard & long: tried to stare you over. Loved what I saw & want to see & do more. Call ☎ 4704

**9/10 Without Reservations 4-4:30pm**  
You: "Key West" cap, Harry, beautiful brown eyes, great smile, we kept looking at each other. Me: with friend, "Cocks Cap", glasses, you're so handsome, please call? ☎ 4705

**Geary/Fillmore Tues. 10/20**  
You: Cute guy w/yellow tank, shorts, and smooth muscled legs. Me: Black guy at #22 stop We smiled twice. Too shy to talk to you. You're sweet, let's meet! ☎ 4800

**Frustrated Crowded Muni**  
Saw you, dark & handsome, major eye contact. Me: tall Blonde. Couldn't get on the underground train. Grrrrr. 10/13 Let's connect. ☎ 4801

**You're From San Jose**  
You're a draftsman/African American named Kiehl. Met you at the Lone Star and promised I'd call, but lost your number. Me: big Latino guy. ☎ 4802

**Dane - Where are You?**  
After Dore Alley Fair, Burger King, Quick kiss at #31 bus stop. Can't forget you. Where can I find you? Eagle? Taco Bell? You can find me. Please do. Russell ☎ 4803

**Blow Buddies Sat 10/17 Early**  
You: White shorts, no shirt, cap. Me: Black shirt jeans. Got you off, would like to again. No strings. ☎ 4804

**Alex from Chico/Sac/Woodland**  
We met 9/25, upstairs store at Lone Star in SF. you liked my calves. I liked your smile. ☎ 4606

**Victor: Labor Day Weekend@RRR**  
Made a date @ pool after T-shirt auction to Fides Dance. I waited, but never saw U. Want to see you again & talk. Call Scott ☎ 4805

**Looking for Jack of Oakland**  
We met Sat 5th Labor day wknd mid-night. San Jose bath house me sleeping by the pool, you black guy hair mustache 6' 200lb or so was my first time there want more. ☎ 4703

**Ray Handsome & Sweet**  
Sunday afternoon 218, Badlands. You took my hand, I'd like to talk. The Cowboy. ☎ 4806

**Embarco Y Lock RM Sun 10/18**  
2am Cute boy I hope you were coming on to me & that you read BAR Talk. Don't give up. Call. Let's get together. ☎ 4807

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Filipino American Seeks Same**  
Attractive, intelligent, sweet and sincere Filipino/American seeks same for dating and possible LTR. I'm 5'11" and 167 #. I enjoy dancing, reading, good conversation, etc. Be between 24-37. ☎ 4513

**Soul Friend Needed by GM to...**  
Share spirit experiences that our process provokes. No barriers - LTR/anything possible. ☎ 4612

**Where is Fairfield?**  
GWM 5'11", 170lb 170# 27yo stargazing soul w/feet in salty earth is old-fashioned, spiritual, artistic, genuine, ISO 21-35yo gentlemen/good head on shoulders, sincere, spiritual, sane, authentic, and creative ☎ 4514

**Handsome, Sarcastic, Pisces GWM**  
Also creative, spiritual, sincere, 35yo, 5'11", 180lbs, brn/bln, seeks like guys 25-40, for friendship and whatever develops. Tired of SF bullshit? I am. (no drugs) ☎ 4515

**Red Alert**  
Passionate for redheads. Looking for guys 30-45 who are red high & low, hairy A+. I'm 42, smart, sexy, in excellent shape & who gives a great massage. ☎ 4516

**Looking for Older HIV+ Black Gentlemen**  
GWM, bottom, 5'4, 5'10", 210 HIV+ looking for HIV+ BM to explore the possibilities of a relationship. Interested in concerts, dining out, plays, travel. Live in Oakland. ☎ 4517

**Lusty Playful Lover**  
50's ISO fellow traveller, WM, HIV-, NS, ND, sexually versatile, educated, prof, independent affectionate, intense, joyful very alive. ☎ 4518

**HIV+ Eastbay Top Wanted**  
HIV+ bottom 36, 6', 185, blue, brownish, healthy, cutiepie, seeks top to snuggle by my fireplace in Pittsburg. LTR with dark-haired brown eyed smoker. I dig Capri-corns, Cancers and Virgos. ☎ 4519

**Wanted: Big/Masc. Top 4 LTR**  
HIV+ 175lb 4'10" hairy in-shape HIV+ bottom buzzedstache, br/yr, seeks manly, big (min 6' 200#) into hump 4 pos. monog. LTR not hung top ☎ 4520

**Smooth Is Good.....**  
BM, 39, bald, slim seeks LTR with smooth, slim, seeks LTR with smooth, slim, under 40 soul mate. Asian or Hispanic is a plus. ☎ 4522

**Attracted to Black Men**  
Who are aggressive and need love on a steady relationship. Me: GWM, 165#, loves to suck and be fucked. All ages, let's have a romantic time. ☎ 4523

**Handsome Latino for Love**  
Goodlooking, 38, many interests, in shape latino seeks other men, serious only, 35-45, for adventure, play, movies, good times in life, and more. ☎ 4524

**Bisexual Asian 33**  
Seeks friend to play tennis, bowling & bodybuilding, dine out with movie. I'm a smoker okay, no drugs. Guys in and outside Bay Area equally welcome! ☎ 4526

**Hi my Name is Ralph.**  
I'm living with AIDS and seeking a male bottom. I am a top who is 38yo and looking for someone between 18-24 that likes safe, hot sex. I am hot! ☎ 4527

**You & Me = LTR our Love!**  
You: 30-50, 5'8", or taller W or H. Me: 28, 6'4", Latino, 215, HIV-, honest sincere, bldg together for more. ☎ 4528

**E. Bay Master Seeks Slave**  
25-50yrs, responsible, h/wt proportionate, with obedient tongue and ass. Single, companion-oriented only. Fucking, drinking piss, servicing nipples. master's dominant, not sadistic. HIV- 42, 170#, br/bl, moustache/goatee. ☎ 4529

**HIV+ Latino Hot n Sexy**  
Living a normal life. I'm 5'7", 165lbs, 27, stocky, muscular and stable. Seeking Latins or Whites under 40. Must be a patient & kind person. ☎ 4530

**Is it Still Good To You??**  
BM top daddy ISO WM bottom 45+yrs old with hot tits and ass who enjoys taking it wearing fem undies, pantyhose, etc. UB ch-shaved. Me: Uncut 40yrs + and horny. ☎ 4609

**A Preview....**  
GWM late 40s, smooth, muscular, 6', 195lb, S/P hair, goatee, sincere, trusting, HIV-, wants LTR with similar. I like fitness, romance, outdoors, movies, quiet times. Hairy/top A+ but not required. ☎ 4611

**Birds or a Distinctive feather**  
Why are all those particular masculine guys taken? Not all. Inquire with this one and you'll discover another good guy. 5'8", 28yo, 160lbs, handsome featured. One and the same? It could commit us to a date. ☎ 4613

**Friend Fuckbuddy Or Dating...**  
GWM 32yo 5'8", 165lb, luzzed pierced. Turn-ons: Coffee, airplanes, making out, spicy food, biking, butt sex, the freaky people in my street, my million manias, dark hair, tattoos, foreskins A+. ☎ 4614

**GWM Seeks Tall GAM**  
Prof GWM, 38, 6'1", 160, HIV-, enjoys movies, skiing, dining out. Seeks GAM 5'9" or taller for dating and possible LTR, 35-42 preferred. ☎ 4615

**Fulfillment-Fun-Security**  
Seeking: SGWM (P), 24-42yo, goodlooking, full of personality, playfulness, me: Handsome SGWMP, hot, 6', 180lbs, dynamic, stable, kind. Dating: Goal LTR. Let's talk! ☎ 4616

**Shy GWM Seeks HIV- Companions**  
For oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. Want trim under 50, masculine white/latino/black men. I am in my 50s 5'10" 150#. Love classical music, hiking. Let's meet over coffee. ☎ 4617

**Seeking Nirvana**  
GWM, 30, 5'11", 155, attractive, smooth seeks 170-200lb masculine top. I'm a bit fem, but not queenie at all. A sports nut, like movies, travel, chess, too. ☎ 4618

**Asian Wants Friends or LTR**  
Taiwanese student, 23, 5'5", 140lbs. Enjoy movies, music & conversations. You: GWM 22-36, honor, patience, responsibility. Let's talk & date! We will have a good time! ☎ 4619

**Well Hung Butch Bottom**  
GWM, 48, HIV+, 5'8", 135#, clean-cut, creative, romantic, 8"+ cut, viet nam vet seeks equally butch top for hot times and who knows, maybe a relationship! ☎ 4620

**ISO Masculine Awake Short**  
Grounded, spirited, intense, sensual, SGW (5'6", muscular, lean 40s) seeks youthful man committed to physical fitness and inner work, mindfulness, awakened heart. LIA BM encouraged. ☎ 4621

**Attr GWM nice guy iso soul mate**  
I'm a young kg 41, 5'11", 165, dr/kam, stache/goatee, non-smoker, and HIV+. I'm well educated, politically liberal, and financially secure. I enjoy working out, travel, football, leather, chatting on the internet, and all types of music. I seek a man who is masculine, honest, playful yet emotionally mature, unafraid of commitment, financially stable, and attr. ☎ 4622

**Bright Eyes, Ready Smile**  
Handsome Italian 52, 5'10", stocky, wh/br, tattoos, stable, honest, open minded/heart, ISO monogamous LTR (friends first, safe sex later) HIV-neg, happy attractive spirit/mind/body. N/S, N/drugs, near East Bay Bart station. ☎ 4706

**Cute And Creative**  
Artistic, urbane, professional, dominant GBM 5'10" 160#. 30ish. ISO masculine, conservative bottom men. Be any race, physically fit, over 28yo, latino/mediterranean A+. ☎ 4707

**European SWM**  
30s, tall and slender, attractive, fit, healthy, NS, professional with wide range of interests (outdoors, movies, art, ...) looking for friendship, dating, intimacy. Open to LTR. ☎ 4708

**Earthy Free Spirit for LTR with**  
39yo blond attractive, fit, books, nature, hiking, independent film, country music. You're 33-44, dark hair, HIV-, husky, not into scene. A blue collar, blue jeans T-shirt thinker with a soul. ☎ 4525

**Did I Tell you're Wonderful?**  
Well, I'll never be able to if I never meet. Smart easy-going, caring AM, 32, HIV-, seeks similar A/W man 28-40, in East Bay for dating, possible LTR. ☎ 4709

**GWM HIV+ 47 Seeks GBM**  
I'm 6' 165lb, bottom, friendly, like travel, museums, politics, warm affectionate cuddling. Looking for compatible GBM, open to relationship. Please call ☎ 4710

**GWM Seeks Latino**  
GWM, 40s, 5'7", 150lbs, blond/blue, goodlooking, sexy, positive, healthy, in-shape, good looking, masculine, seeks Latino for dating, possible LTR. ☎ 4711

**Passion For Chubbies**  
I'm Latin, 25, 5'11", 160#, HIV-, romantic. ISO a cute healthy chubbie man N/S, ND, HIV-, fun, affectionate, 21-29 glasses A+, hairy A+. ☎ 4712

**Just Lookin'**  
For a little fun, friendship and some openness for future possibilities. GWM, 35 ISO a guy who's not into club scene between the age of 30 and 45, healthy, happy NS, ND. ☎ 4713

**Jackoff Show off? Need an App?**  
Devised to pleasure yourself? Love demonstrating your expertise in windows for worshipful neighbors? Need an SF app? if you're Asian or GWM, 20's thru 40's, let's talk! ☎ 4714

**Conversation and Companionship**  
Don't need to work; don't want those who do. No drugs, sex, romance. Love nature, art, active, educated, interesting fun, caring individuals. ☎ 4715

**HIVPositive Partner Search**  
Handsome 30yo GWM looking for "My Partner". Are you secure enough to play on occasion for sex - but still remain my partner? Are you sexy 25-35 and ready to commit? ☎ 4716

**Interested In Friendship**  
GM 30, brn/bln, 5'7", seeks friendship with GM 30-45, brn/bln, brn/bln, into nature, hiking, trekking. I like a moustache on men. ☎ 4717

**Gentle Giant**  
GWM 41, very tall, (offensive linemen sized) SF nice guy, looking for masculine fellow for dating, movies, music, theatre, art, dining in or out, niner's, giants+, size, race, age unimportant. ☎ 4718

**Two Bears lost In Hibernation**  
Holding hands in the Castro theatre - walking out into the fog. I'll take the chill off! 42yo, 6'3", big bear seeks another. ☎ 4719

**Ready To Move?**  
Ready to settle down? Me too! I'm 34, bottom, sexy, non-smoker, ISO a possible lover to consider moving to Big Bear. Let's talk! Call for more details. ☎ 4720

**GAM Seeking GWM Friend/LTR**  
Handsome, masculine GAM, 37, 5'9", 135, HIV-, in-shape to meaty, college educated professional. Facial hair, hairy, HIV-, versatile, SF preferred. ☎ 4721

**Marriage Minded Transsexual**  
6'2", 195, financially successful, high values, non-smoking, non-drinking, 45, beautiful looking athlete, seeks N/S, ND, post-op TS who will relocate to Reno. World traveler, opportunity of a lifetime. ☎ 4722

**Warm Sensual Active Men...**  
43yo GWM 5'9", brn/bln, 165, attr, looks nice build, kinky but healthy sex, looking to meet, date, warm sensual active men, 35-50, LTR possible. ☎ 4723

**Sincerity and Honesty**  
GAM, 39yo, 5'8", 145lbs, professional seeks other sincere, honest & caring gents for friendship and possible LTR. New to dating scenes. Serious only. ☎ 4724

**Nice GAM**  
GAM, 33, 5'8", 145lbs, seeks open minded, honest, sweet and romantic GWM for dating and possible relationship must be 33yrs or over. Serious only please. ☎ 4725

**What Dreams May Comes**  
I'm 32yo, 5'6", 150lbs, good looking, perfect body, looking for a guy who likes asian men. Call me & I'll take U to Titan. I'm here waiting for you. ☎ 4726

**Handsome Loving Hunky Man**  
Accomplished GWM seeks passionate relationship/possible LTR. I'm 6'2", 190#, 42, very muscular, goateed Italian. Fun, sincere, exclusive, family oriented, healthy as a horse HIV+ non-progressor, puppy love to leather, sexually charged for relationship. Seeks similar 35-45yo, professional, GWM, grounded, secure, relationship experienced and committed to what makes it work. A man to look me in the heart, so we can die for each other bodies and live for each other souls. Local acid and body builder A+. Good credentials and character a must. Serious only, please. Call... ☎ 4727

**Attractive Latino**  
Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37 for friendship or more. Just call ☎ 4808

**ISO Sailor/Teacher**  
WM young 45, 5'7", 150, want to get back into sailing, learn about the Bay, nice guy, many interests, professional, in-shape, you're in-shape, good person, HIV-. Friends first. ☎ 4809

**Slender Asian Seeking GWM**  
Chinese, 5'7", 130#, smooth, straight acting. Seeking burly GWM in San Francisco for safe sex. ☎ 4810

**Bearcat Seeks Bear**  
GWM, 40, 215lb, brn hair, green eyes, moustache beard, attractive, not buffed. Seeks smart, bearded, furry bear. Husband material only, no sex-buddies. Leave message. ☎ 4811

**Handsome Black Top**  
37yo Black male with muscular swimmer's build well-endowed, HIV-, ISO, 20-40, fit, HIV-, white bottom for hot times, possible LTR. You won't be disappointed! ☎ 4812

**Cute Asian**  
I'm 30yrs, 150lbs, HIV-, looking for blond blue eyes, 21 thru 38yo. Call me & I will show you the world. I like to travel, gym, sports & dance. ☎ 4813

**"Happily Ever After"...**  
Unique, handsome, SGWM, 6', 200lbs, 48yo, sexy, multi talented, playful. Seeks: Goodlooking, masculine, seeks Latino for a plus! Horny, full of personality. Dating: Goal LTR. Just "Kiss at Heart" Call ☎ 4814

**GWM 62 Blond Seeks Playmate**  
Mate needed for theatre, singing, and traveling. Tired of being alone! Call me. ☎ 4815



**Wanted: Hot Top 4 LTR**

Hi I'm new to town, 42, 5'9", 190, HIV-, bottom, WM. Seeking nice guy who loves to fuck & love. Prefer N/S under 40. ☎ 4818

**Football Buddy Straight Acting**  
Masculine NS, GWM, 39, seeks same for watching football working out and dining out and sex and dating, leading to poss. LTR. I'm versatile bottom, you be 25-30. ☎ 4817

**Attr Clean-Cut Muscular GAM**  
34, 5'9", 174#, seeks similar Asian or Latin men for friendship, warm times (IE, kissing, cuddling) and relationship. ☎ 4818

**Italian Guys!**

I'm the guy who knows what the Italian male really wants! Let's get together for fun and good times. ☎ 4819

**Mulatto Guy**

Sexy, intelligent, light-skinned, good-looking. Seeking financially secure guy for fun and good times or a relationship. ☎ 4820

**Cute Boy & Companion**

Seeking dependable, honest, trim cute boy. Any race, legal age, who's oral. Me: 5'3yo, good looking, 5'6", very oral, beautiful Sausalito home. Retired prof., HIV - a must. ☎ 4821

**LTR? Noe V. Prof, 45, Brn, Blu,**  
WM, 160, smkr, HIV-, cut, romantic, average guy, enjoys life, 49ers, entry music, cat, gardening, travel, home. ISO HIV- uncult partner, WM, 35-55, mature, independent, cock, hairy A++ ☎ 4822

**Free massage**

GWM, ex-massage therapist, 6', 165lbs, 40, br/hzl offers free massage to lean, wiry, dark-haired grrl caucasian tops. Let me rub you the right way. ☎ 4823

**Emergency Cocksucking Service**

7 days/24hrs we never close! Next time all the guys go off together leaving you alone with your hard-on get it sucked off good! ☎ 4824

**SEEKING ADVENTURE****Asian Guy Sought**

Small framed, slender Asian sought by 81 WM, 52, 5'10", 160#, HIV+, for regular, hot, safe, sexual encounters. No hang ups, just fun. ☎ 4531

**Older Mature Men**

I'm a LM 42, 6', 160lbs and I enjoy being around and orally servicing older mature men. I also like to kiss and hold. Facial hair, rugged looks A+. No gay scene, gyms or S&M. ☎ 4532

**East Bay Married Male**

Seeks same for safe, sane, discreet fun. Me: WM early 30's. You: married or BI, 25-40, in shape and horny. No strings just hot times. ☎ 4533

**Seeking Ad 35355 - 27th Aug**

Would like to hear from you not in area. Me tall good looking w/boy who digs muscle from Iran. ☎ 4534

**Top Wanted**

G/WM 35, 5'10", 170#, br/gr, attractive, in-shape, muscular, hung bottom, seeks good looking in-shape, hot top between 25-40 for safe fuck session. ☎ 4535

**Muscle Worship**

Would like to hook up with body builders, verbal top for muscle worship session. Me, 6'3", 190, in-shape, submissive. You, pro muscle 20ish-30ish. ☎ 4536

**I am living WAIDS**

My name is Ralph & I am seeking someone between 18-24 bottom, that is HIV+ for some hot safe sex. I am very hot & horny. ☎ 4537

**Santa Rosa Area Dildo Fuckhole**

Goodlooking guy needs nasty minded men to play with my hole. Like showing off hole, dirty talk, mirrors. Enthusiasm more important than looks. Age typing possible. All calls returned. ☎ 4538

**Seeking Tall**

Beefy guy, Auburn hair, green eyes, age 31, looking to service regular types on going. Tall guys between 35-45 A+. ☎ 4539

**Hunky Jack seeks Beantalk**

Hard, muscular, well-defined, buzzed, sure-handed top 47, 5'11", 165#, seeks lean, wiry, self-assured bottom w/fat stomach, decent looks, under 35. I'll rock your world. ☎ 4540

**Humiliation**

Are you aroused by ridicule and harsh discipline? Explore scenes with attractive 45yo Sir. Perfectly obey my orders or receive angry correction. Understand? Be fit, attractive nonsmoker. ☎ 4541

**Bondage Buddy**

this 5'11", 160lb, muscular defined smooth all american boy in rope bondage, fantasy, tit play, interested in meetin other white men under 36yo. ☎ 4542

**Erotic Travel Buddy Sought**

GWM, 43, 5'10", 159#, great shape, b/blue, seeking very attractive younger man (18-30s) for fun weekend trips within California vicinity. I can take care of finances if needed. ☎ 4543

**Young Daddy**

GWM, 50, 5'10", 170, br/hr, ISO W/son for hot daytime oral/verbal (A/P) sessions. South bay. ☎ 4544

**Quietly Dominant Black Top Man**

45, seeks mature, masculine, submissive non-bearded and non-goateed bottoms. All races. Over 40, husky, mustache big turn ons. Accessible, sincere men only please. ☎ 4545

**Sit On My Face**

Well built top, hung big needs well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 4546

**Free Erotic Massage**

Seeking muscular big dick guys, 20-40, who like to lie back and be totally pampered, pleased, jerked off or orally serviced. Body builders and big balls A+. ☎ 4547

**Leatherman (40) Wants to meet**  
Punks, skinheads, & clean-cut men, 19-25, interested in cigars. Let's kick back & smoke a few! ☎ 4548

**A-1 Oral Service-Delivered**  
SF, GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation HIV-. 4549

**HIV+X-Jehovah's Witness**  
43yo, 6'3", 185, bottom handsome med hairy fuzzy butt, 6 1/2" cut brigr mustache seeking romantic open caring sexual rel., YOU: 35-45, top hairy 7" thick +, thinmed build, no fats. Redwood City serious only. J.D. ☎ 4623

**Have As Will Travel**  
35yo white male seeking the perfect Asian cock and fist. first time ok. ☎ 4624

**Shower and Massage**

Clean wet sensual fun in the shower followed by an erotic massage for very trim muscular guys 18-42 who are hairy or smooth by smooth trim masculine WM ☎ 4625

**Like the Powerhouse Backroom?**  
Let's try my place - First 3 or 4 calls and make a date: hot, any race, any fetish - 35+, middle 30s waist, couple hours, try again. ☎ 4626

**GWM seeks Slight Son 20-35**  
In-shape, professional, 45, 5'7", 135lbs, looking for short, slim son who needs his cheeks spread apart, his asshole eaten and his dick sucked. ☎ 4627

**Just shut - Up and Ride!!!!!!**  
WM, 33 5'10" 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk wants good-looking masculine men to pump me, or get pumped! till we squirt. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime! ☎ 4628

**Muscles & Bears**  
WM, couple, husky hairy bear & mus 88 (5'9"225, 6', 220) mas., (43-48) ISO other big men for friendship and play. Hairy & hairy A+ ☎ 4629

**Boy-Toy Slave or Son Sought**  
By attr understanding mature man, 75, 5'8", 165, for ongoing sexual scenes. You are 18-40, ddkg, fit, and trainable. No pain no gain! 4630

**Is It Your Mouth**  
And lips and tongue that will caress my dick with an expert slow and sensual blow job? I'm 52 and love getting it. You be an expert. Please leave phone #. ☎ 4631

**Your Dream Suck**  
Total bottom looking to give you the best cock suck you've only experienced in your wettest dreams. I am 5'8" salt & pepper, small stache, av. low. You are: tall, handsome and endowed. Let's do it. BI/H+ +. ☎ 4632

**Hey, Little Man!**  
Goodlooking, very hairy 45yo 5'8" 150# educated professional, pos, ISO shorter, smaller man, also very hairy, poz, into working out, peepay, leather/military, punching, rough mansex! (top/bottom). ☎ 4633

**GAM ISO GWM**  
Looking for a fit guy to play with. Me: 5'7", 130#, ch cut. you: 30-48 in shape. Hot mouths A+. ☎ 4634

**Black Men!! My Fantasy is To...**  
Have 2 or 3 well endowed BM use me as their white fuck toy slave for a weekend. Me: 5'8" 150#, very submissive. ☎ 4635

**E Bay Black Tops**  
Attractive young forties WM needs fucking. Fuck buddies need in 510 or 707 area codes. Call when you are ready to fuck. Satisfaction guaranteed. ☎ 4636

**Big & Hefty**  
GBM 44yo 5'11" 250lbs seek big heavy & pleasantly fat men for uninhibited sexual connection, my size or bigger only. Description. ☎ 4637

**Alternative**  
Wanted: men who are different, fairies, skinheads, long-hair, tats, piercings, by mature Castro man. ☎ 4735

**Ball Worship**

My 2 huge low hangers are waiting for your hot mouth & tongue. Me: attrac. GWM, 48, 6'5", 250, football players build brown hair/mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attrac. GWM (white, latin, asian) slim, no pain. ☎ 4728

**Remember 1970's Top/Bottom Parties?**  
Let's do it again! Men over 40 only. Easy Bay location. Hotel room chip in and direct contact phone number required. Serious only. ☎ 4729

**Asian Slaves**  
Gking, thin, 40yo, W/M likes to rape young asians (18-30) rough scenes of tom clothes, bondage, humiliation, degradation, and forced violent sex. Will spend hours roped and repeatedly (safe) raped! ☎ 4730

**Love Those Redheads!**  
Me: 32, 6'1", 180lbs, brown hair, green eyes, clean-shaven, nice boyish looks, average body. Sexually versatile. Vanilla or kinky. You: Red-headed, reasonable, mid-30s or younger. ☎ 4731

**Sub Blk Bot Sks Top/Dom**  
Top runch/kinky/verbal in eve & some wknds. ☎ 4732

**Latinos Wanted**  
Hot masculine Top. Italian, 5'11", 170lbs, brew/brown, 8 1/2" cut, smooth; 30yo, seeking hot masculine latino bottoms. ☎ 4733

**Sweaty Armpits Appreciated**  
By mature man with hot mouth for full body oral service. Uncuts a plus. ☎ 4734

**Over-Sexed Bottom Seeks Top!**  
GWM, 48, 5'8", 140#, HIV+, 8 1/2" cut, needs well-hung hairy top to service and by topped by! ☎ 4736

**Santa Rosa Area**  
Top guy, 50, healthy, handsome, hung, 6ft, seeks bottom guy with sweet butt, be healthy, handsome, ready! 25-45, NS, ND. ☎ 4737

**Fun Time Sought**  
Attractive GWM, 30, brn hair and eyes seeks a sexy asian man 40-55 years for a direct erotic encounter. Let's have fun with each other. ☎ 4739

**Masculine WM, 36, Looking For**  
Big Overweight "Bear" who needs a good plowing on a regular basis. Masculine, kink, fetishes welcome. ☎ 4740

**Wanted professional Gay Man**  
Gay, 32, 5'10", 160#, seeks GWM/F financial Dist., suit/ie, suspenders etc. For hot, safe, fun in and out of clothes. ☎ 4741

**Houseboy 18-25 Wanted**  
Room and board for honest, white, under 6', not fat male. I'm very attractive, 20s. Totally legit situation. Looking for the right guy only. San Francisco. ☎ 4742

**Classy Daddy**  
45yo accom., secure, prof GWM seeks well-rounded ynf gent (mid-20s) to enjoy, on a part time basis, the finer things in life. Appreciation of fine dining, good music, the arts and theatre required. Call add for box # 4743 for more info. Excellent opportunity! ☎ 4743

**Want What You've Got**  
GWM, 34, 5'8", 155, br, br, seeks masculine men to fuck me up. Me: into working out, clubs and fucking around with hot guys, great ass. Call me. ☎ 4744

**Fuck Buddy**  
GLM 42, 6', 180lbs, HIV-, safe, toned gym body, great hairy chest, recently single, like to fuck and get fucked. Call and describe yourself. ☎ 4745

**I'm Your Bottom**  
Attract, cl-cut, masc w/guy, gd body, 5'9", 158#, hairy chest, 30" w, tight smooth butt, deep throat cocksucker hungry to service you, sir, v. discreet. ☎ 4746

**Oral Sex companions**  
Looking to service well endowed 7" middle aged lean masculine men One or more. No reciprocation necessary. I am in my 50s, 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair. ☎ 4747

**May I Please You Sir?**  
Very submissive Latino bottom, seeks top for roleplay, spanking. I'm 5'5", 150lbs, 22yo, HIV-, you too, age, race not important, your wish is my command. ☎ 4836

**Kick Back and Let Me..**  
Work on your meat. Hot, horny Italian, 45, 6', 180#, wants to pleasure you as you kick back & feed me. ☎ 4845

**Mature Guy**

SF, GWM 48yoed 65, 5'8", 145#, NS/ND oral/massage J/O, ISO in shape white/Latino 35-55 with facial hair for mutual safe erotic meetings. ☎ 4837

**Big-Dicked Gourmet Consumer**  
Of oral services seeks SF's best providers. Enthusiasm, expertise, endurance, important: easy-going, hairy, intelligent & sense of humor pluses. ☎ 4838

**Boyhood Accident Left Me With:**  
1" (not a typo) multiple scars, one ball, urinary ostomy, 43, 5'8", 180, masculine, white, successful, HIV-, brains, sexually adventurous. You: Masculine, sex-loving, not obese, 55max., open-minded, addiction free. ☎ 4839

**Man With Pump Has Big Hard...**  
Click. Wants companion and welcomes suggestions. Senior, trim, versatile respectable. ☎ 4840

**Dad Needs Asian**  
Seeking Asian with small hands & nice cock. Slide your hand deep in my hot tight ass. While I suck your cock you may have fantasies about trying something wonderful. I am all yours. ☎ 4841

**Kick Back Get Sucked**  
Great oral serv, for hot, hunky, musc., masc., men with big cock-n-balls, hot mouth and tongue get's your load shot! ☎ 4842

**Santa Rosa Area**  
Hot Hung Top 50 seeks playful hot assexed bottoms, me HIV-, you 8 2, no smoking, no drugs, don't wait! ☎ 4843

**Chinese Buns Need a Hung Top**  
Buried balls deep in my hungry hole. I'm 5'9", 180, stocky muscular build, with an insatiable ass. ☎ 4844

**Just Shut-Up & Ride!!!!!!**  
WM, 33, 5'10", 200lb, blond/blue muscle hunk (48", 32" w, 18") wants good-looking masculine men to pump me or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off, anytime. ☎ 4846

**Older Black Guys 50-60's**  
Click. (see GWM) take your load. Mature, clean, HIV-, discreet. You likewise. ☎ 4847

**Fuck A Big Daddybear Butt**  
Big hairy, 5'5", 5-6yrs, 289lbs, bearded, hairy, very hairy daddybear, wants a cut/buy over 45yo, under 6ft, height/weight somewhat proportional, to make hot/rough love. Call now! ☎ 4848

**Kinky Mature Bisexual**  
Seeks light B&D and D/S with nice men who enjoy eroticism, sensuality, fetishism, mutuality, androgyny, friendliness, and consensual fun. ☎ 4849

**Spread Eagle Bondage**  
Tied spread eagle on your bed to writhe, flex, sweat with slow sensual teasing and eventual milking. Enjoy either/both roles. hot, safe, fun. Decent body, HIV-. ☎ 4855

**East Bay Latin**  
GWM, 5'7", 110lbs, 34yo, clean shaven HIV-, looking for a special man. Love to hear from guys 35+, white or latin. Open to LTR. ☎ 4850

**Oral Slut Applications**  
Being accepted by 6', 170lb, hairy chested WM, 38, attractive, requiring respectful, thorough, uninterrupted attention front and rear. I'm HIV-. You are: hungry, un-demanding, neek. Older or overweight okay. ☎ 4851

**East Bay Latin**  
GWM, 5'7", 110lbs, 34yo, clean shaven HIV-, looking for a special man. Love to hear from guys 35+, white or latin. Open to LTR. ☎ 4850

**Oral Slut Applications**  
Being accepted by 6', 170lb, hairy chested WM, 38, attractive, requiring respectful, thorough, uninterrupted attention front and rear. I'm HIV-. You are: hungry, un-demanding, neek. Older or overweight okay. ☎ 4851

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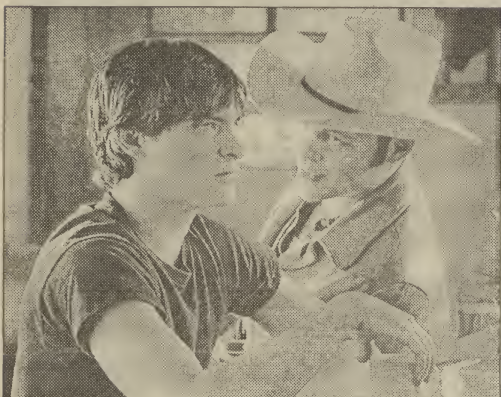
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Joaquin Phoenix and Vince Vaughn in *Clay Pigeons*

## Country-style discs

by Gregg Shapiro

The reviews have been as mixed as a possum stew for the movie *Clay Pigeons*, but one thing's for certain, the soundtrack packs the blast of buckshot. The dozen songs on *Clay Pigeons* are a solid blend of new and old country tunes.

Kicking off with tracks by two proponents of what I still refer to as country punk (you can call it insurgent country, no depression, y'alternative, or anything else that you'd like), Old 97s and Firewater ("Timebomb" and "Another Perfect Catastrophe," respectively), the soundtrack also features contributions by such new country bumpkins as the amazing Sara Evans (who also appears on the Tammy Wynette tribute disc *Tammy Wynette Remembered*) singing "Almost New," Sister Hazel (covering the Bellamy Bros.' "Let Your Love Flow"), and Lyle Lovett ("Teach Me About Love"). The most surprising moment on the soundtrack occurs when Tonic (Tonic?) nails a surprisingly savvy cover of Nilsson's "Everybody's Talking." As for the classic stuff, you simply can't go wrong with "Moon Over Montana" by Jimmy Wakely and Don Gibson's "Sea Of Heartbreak," to name a few.

The aforementioned "Another Perfect Catastrophe" also appears on Firewater's *The Ponzi Scheme* (Cherry/Universal), which was originally issued on the Jetset

label. Even though country punk is not the dominant force on the Firewater disc, its presence is felt strongly enough on songs such as "Caroline" (did you hear that fiddle?) and the gospel-ly "Knock 'Em Down." The variety of music on *The Ponzi Scheme* is what makes it so easy to recommend. There's practically something for everyone here. Other highlights include "Green Light," "Dropping Like Flies" (which reminded me of the Afghan Whigs), "Whistling In The Dark," "So Long, Superman," and the unusual instrumentals "Ponzi's Theme" and "El Borracho."

Closer in cow-punk spirit to bands such as Geraldine Fibbers (especially on "Horrorshow"), The Blacks are at their most colorful when they veer towards country and away from punk. Standouts include "Teresa Leaves Lonesome Town," "Moan," "Tortured Holiday," "Crazy," and "Never Coming Back."

A purveyor of more traditional sounds, bluegrass artist Sam Bush keeps it fresh on his disc *Howlin' At The Moon* (Sugar Hill). Bush wrote (or co-wrote) less than half of the songs on the album, which allowed him to demonstrate both his songwriting ability ("Ozzie & Max," "Funk 42," and "Harbor Docks," which he co-wrote with Bela Fleck) and his taste in cover tunes ("Go With The Flow" and Winwood and Capaldi's "Hold On," to name a few) while playing a mean mandolin, fiddle and banjo. ▼

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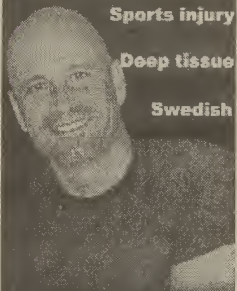
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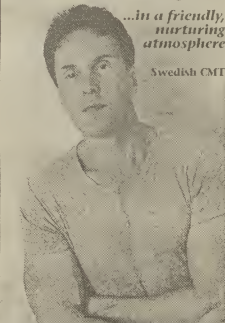


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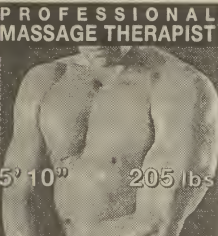
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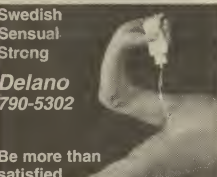
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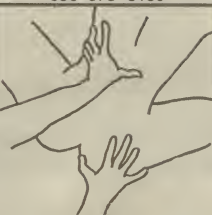
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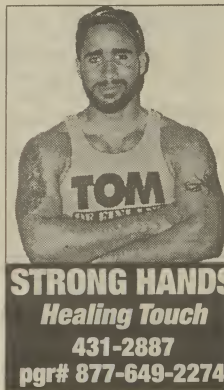
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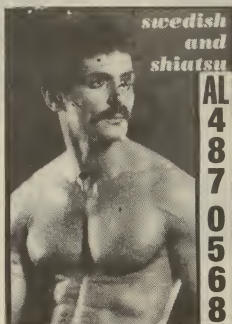
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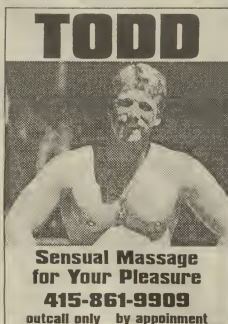
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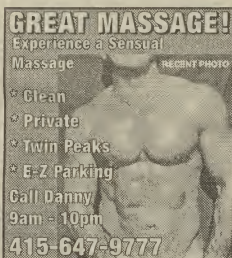
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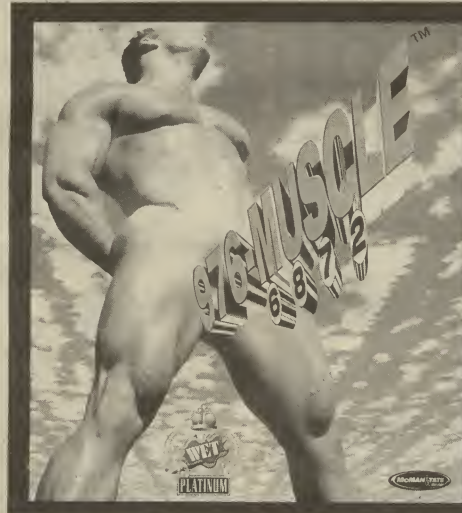
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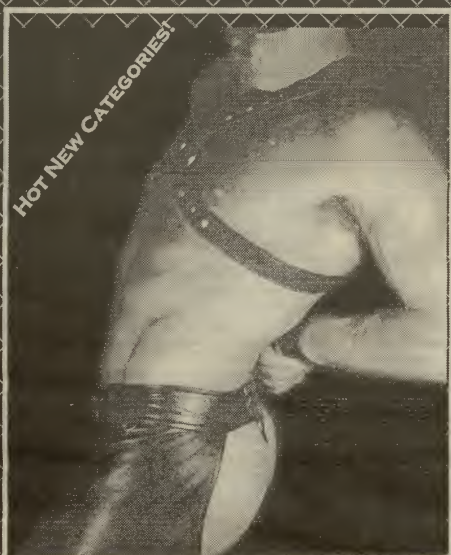
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F/F, CBT, violet wand, toys, boots.  
Beginner-? Have playspace & equip.  
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Handballing Lean Muscular Pro with  
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135lbs 5'8" Brn/Brn Smooth  
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Treat yourself to a wild, wild time!  
25yo stud! Slender Smooth Muscular  
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Very open-minded. Serious  
Calls only! 505-8256 or 399-9144 if  
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Amazing top. Beautiful Tool. Great  
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Will satisfy all your needs.  
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**BIG PECS MUSCLE DAD**

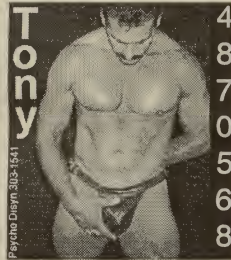
Wants you on your knees for pec play  
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**TONY**



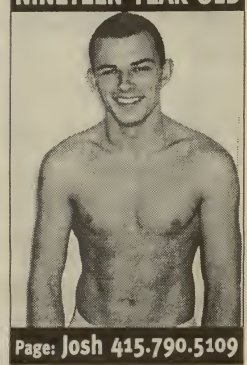
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Tame this monster. Masculine guy...

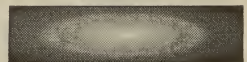
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Avail for sizzling encounters athletic  
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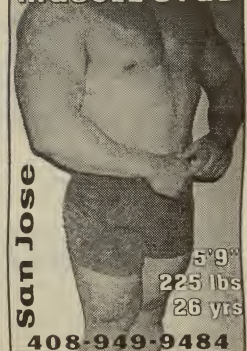
Anthony \$85/in 415-861-SEXX

**NINETEEN YEAR OLD**


Page: Josh 415-790.5109

**MUSCLE STUD**

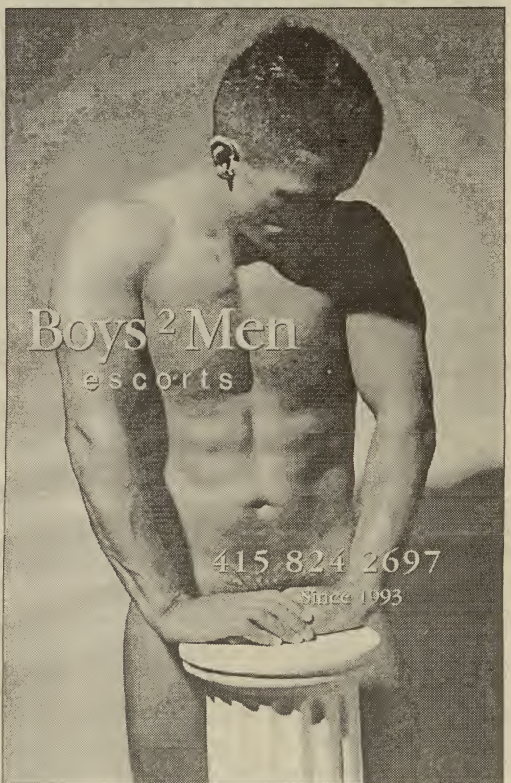
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5'9"  
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Incredibly beautiful  
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**XTRA HOT ASIAN BOY**  
23y Vnm student, Gd/kg, masc, w/a  
nice X-smooth, body. Pls call 790-0394

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5'7" 145lbs shaved head br eyes  
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200 lbs.  
Br/Br  
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Vstl.

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Head to toes. 201-6533 Out only

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7" Uncut.  
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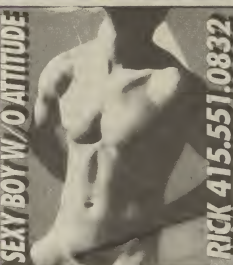
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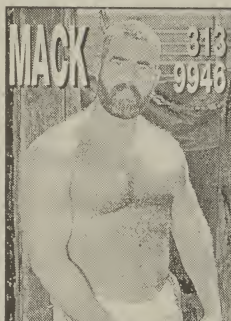
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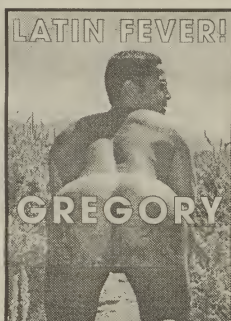
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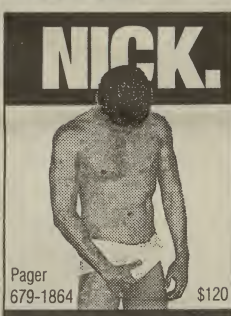
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CLEAN-CUT MIDWEST BOY  
New In Town 27, 5'10", 160#  
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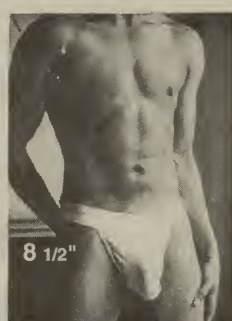


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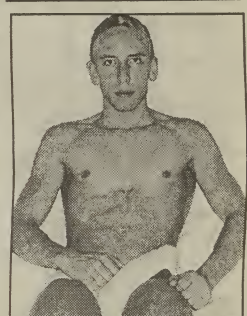
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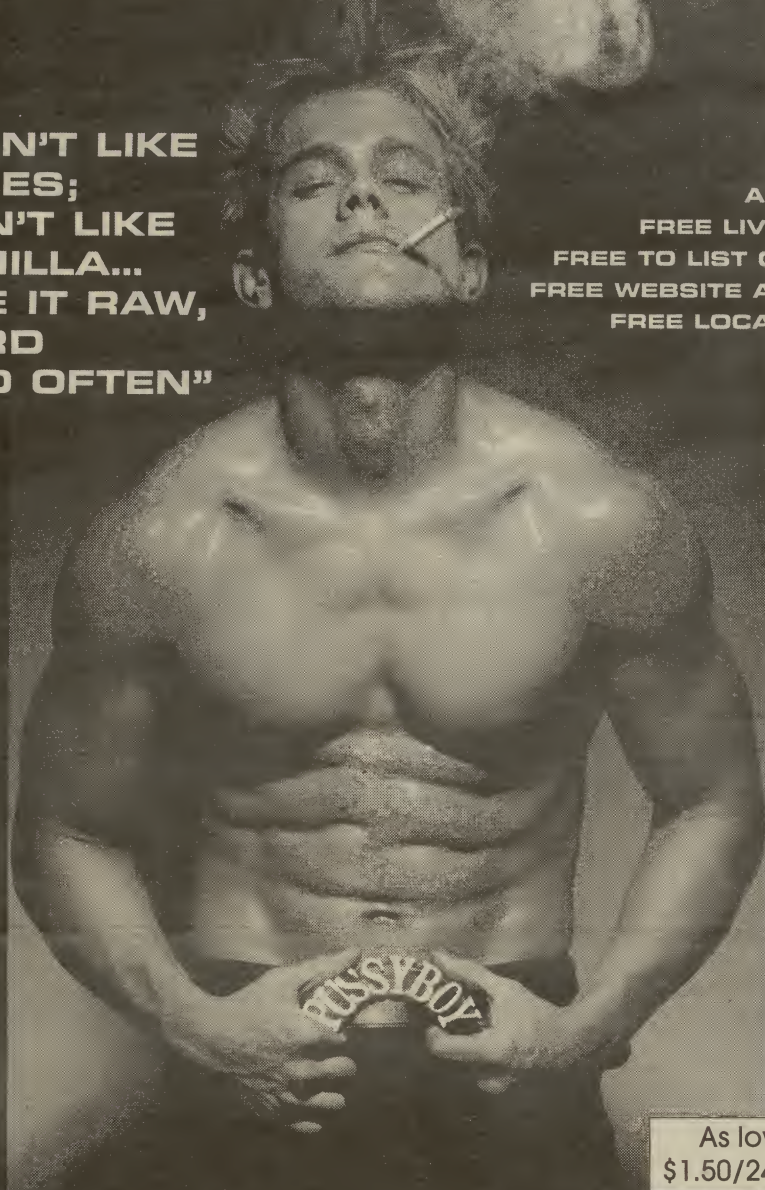
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